Bradner, O.

Recognized as a village in 1876

J.W. Wyant — E.A. James — Builder's

Bradner, O.

David Edmonds — J.W. Schaetzler MD

Rev. J.S. Hanks
Pastor
Evangelical Church
Erected
1887

1876 — 1976

BRADNER

CENTENNIAL

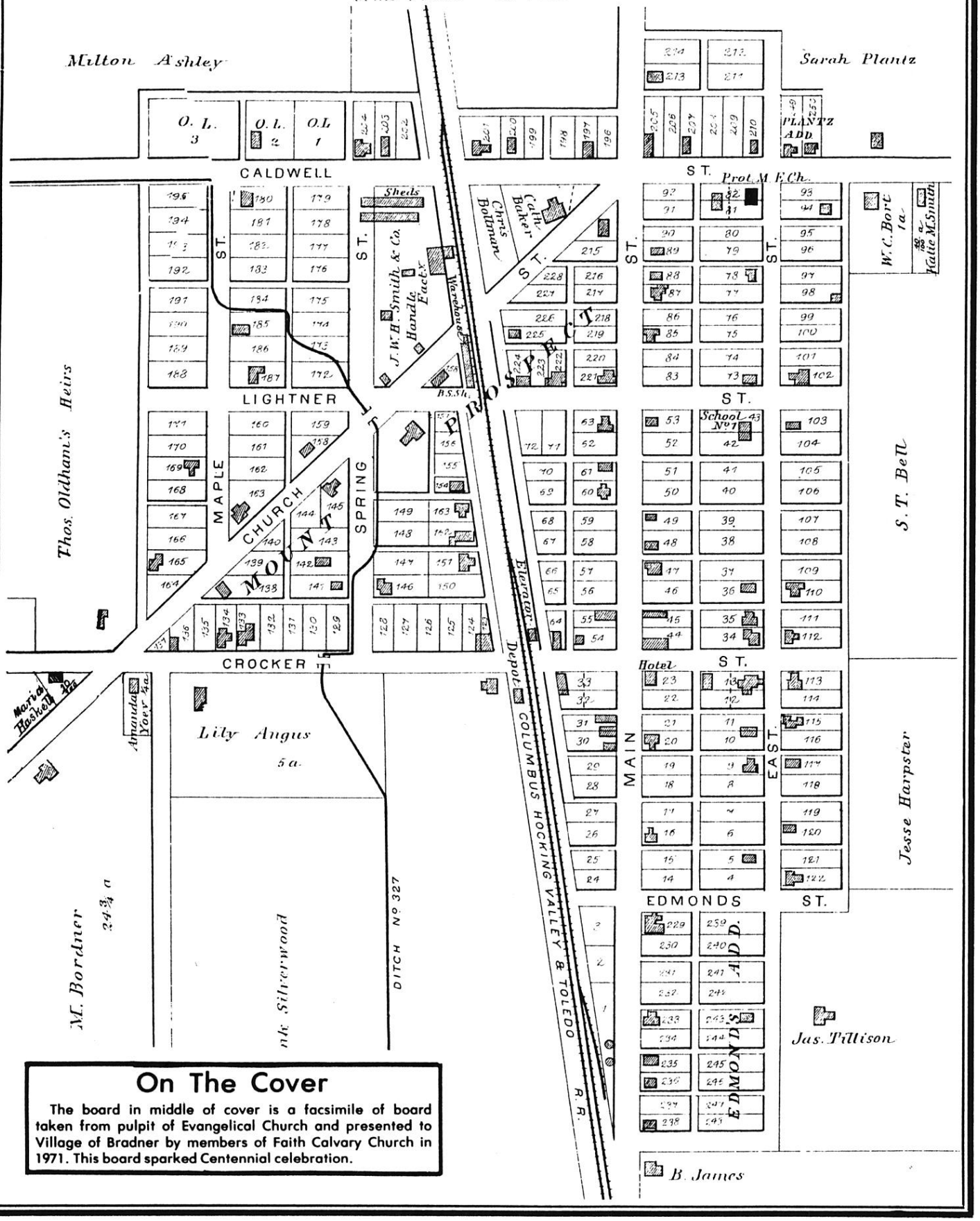
BICENTENNIAL

1886

BRADNER

MONTGOMERY TWP.

Scale 1 inch = 20 rods

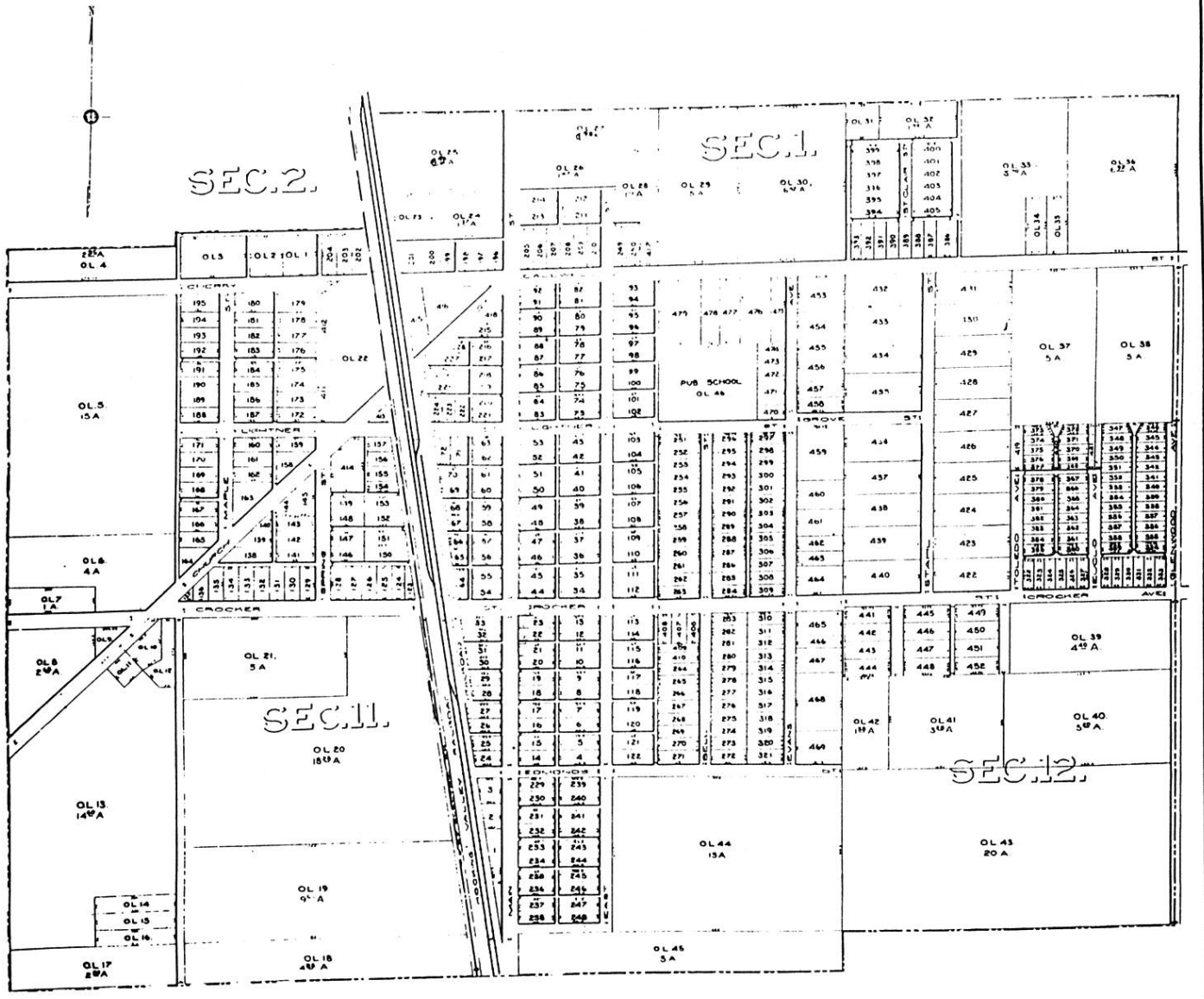


On The Cover

The board in middle of cover is a facsimile of board taken from pulpit of Evangelical Church and presented to Village of Bradner by members of Faith Calvary Church in 1971. This board sparked Centennial celebration.

1912

MAP
OF
BRADNER
CORPORATION
Montgomery Township



WE ARE INDEBTED

Bradner's Centennial-Bicentennial celebration and this commemorative booklet all STARTED WITH A BOARD as the three excerpts from Council minutes relate. I have tried to do as I promised, and one of the first things I learned was that dates and places did not agree. Weaving all of the information and pictures together has been fun: all the notes taken during delightful visits; the long phone conversations; the many hours spent reading Council minutes of 1890-1975, court records of 1890-1973, school board minutes of 1876-1926 (we have Helen Ostrander Hiser to thank for preserving these when they were going to be destroyed as worthless); Beers, 1897, The Commemorative Historical and Biographical Record, Wood County, Ohio: Its Past and Present, which frankly I have both plagiarized and quoted directly.

I wish to pay special tribute to the memory of Ella Tillotson Schroyer (Nov. 15, 1884-Dec. 17, 1975), a native of Bradner. Her intense interest and enthusiasm for things patriotic preserved Bradner's earliest history. Ella loaned me her treasures: Annie Hyter Kirk's (1857-1950) story of Bradner's Beginnings and her painting of Mt. Prospect (see back cover) showing our first log church (M.P.), and second school house (see chapter on education) (Annie was also a native of Bradner); scrapbooks of news clippings on Bradner history gathered through the years; early newspapers--Daily Graphic, 1891; Bradner News, 1893; Bradner Advocate, 1897; and her willingness to share her memories of Bradner which was mostly woods when she was a child.

I have quoted extensively from Ralph "Tootles" Shepler's series of articles "Getting Acquainted with Bradner's Past" in which he states that he had interviews with Danny Stahl, Richard Smith, and many other old-time residents. The chapter on the early school history is based and quoted in part from a series of articles by Opal "Chokie" Eckert who received her information from Anna Kirk and Nancy Bierly Plantz and others.

I would mention the pleasant talks with Jessie Conley Cribbs, (1880-1975) who, having spent all her ninety-five years in Bradner, introduced me to the Bradner before corporation; the visits and the many, many telephone conversations with J. Frank Coveney who made Bradner's early corporate history live for me by identifying people and places, and sharing Bessie Fairbanks Coveney's (1891-1974) schoolgirl scrapbook; and two others who wanted to see the history in print and who

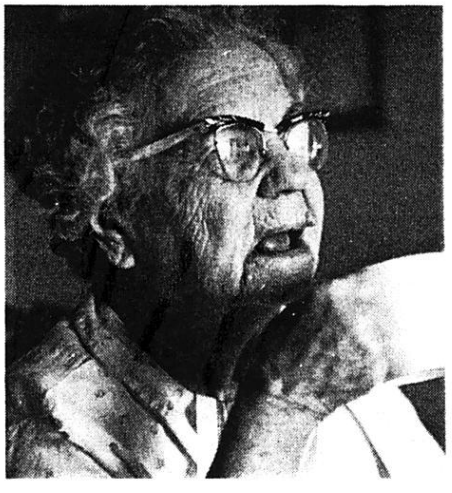
Ella Schroyer

shared early experiences--Lillie McNulty Bell (1892-1975) and Jessie Daily Hanley (1895-). I want especially to thank Anna Christian Bryan (1881-) for the early history of the post office and the drug store; Frances Eckert Rees (1886-) who spent her early childhood across the street from the M.P. Church and used to run errands for her mother to the little corner store run by Sam Klotz; to Charles Dale Stump, identifier of places and faces, who kept saying, "Henrietta, you should remember that," to which I'd reply, "But I never got around town much. When I did get to town, I went straight to the store or to the Post Office as I was told and straight home." I would mention F. Eugene Beatty, home-town boy, and contemporary, who had been reading the early Bradner Advocates on microfilm for me before his untimely death; those who responded with pictures and realia; to many who so graciously consented to interviews, the Elmwood High School Photography Club, and to the other members of the historical committee: Edward F. Dow for time, pictures and materials, and June Zimmerman Kern for the enthusiasm for the preservation of artifacts and her assistance in collecting pictures; and last to my husband, Merritt, who did the signs on the front cover and kept the "home fires burning" while I relived the past.

I have enjoyed every minute of it. I trust you will be pleased, too.

Henrietta Blessing Keller,
Historian

Anna Kirk



Jessie Cribbs

Bessie Fairbanks Coveney

The History of This History: It All Started With a Board

Council minutes quoted:

May 20, 1971

Mr. Noel Lentz brought a large board with historical information on it written in 1887 and installed as part of the pulpit in the present Faith Calvary Church. After sharing, Mr. Lentz said that he would recommend their Board of Trustees give it to the Village of Bradner for its historical value.

July 15, 1971

Rev. Lender and Mr. Lentz presented the Board of History of 1887. This was discovered in their church and was the front of the pulpit. It was put there at the dedication of the Evangelical Church and was built into the pulpit when the pulpit was constructed. Pastor Lender and Mr. Lentz presented it to the Village of Bradner in care of the Council with the following stipulations quoted from their Board minutes:

"Mary Dannenburger moved to donate the historical board to the town council to be displayed for historical purposes and not to be sold; when no longer of value, to be returned to Faith Calvary Church, seconded by Mary Gump. Motion carried."

Council member Keller moved to accept the historical board according to the above stipulations, seconded by Councilmember Mary Stahl. Roll call: five yeas.

July 19, 1973

Councilmember Henrietta Keller remarked that as the Board says Bradner was recognized as a village in 1876, we should celebrate our centennial in 1976 when the nation celebrates the Bicentennial. After discussion it was moved by Councilmember Mary Stahl and seconded by Councilmember David Sabo to celebrate in 1976. Roll call: six yeas. Councilmember Keller said that she would see that Bradner had a human interest history compiled for sale.

And that was the start of this history. The first picture shows Rev. Lender (on the left) and Mr. Noel Lentz (right) presenting the board to Mayor Don Graber (center). In the background on the wall is a picture of John Bradner for whom the town was named. This picture was presented to the Village by the family of Mr. Bradner after his death in 1901.

The second picture shows the council members, mayor and clerk who were in office July 19, 1973, and who voted in the Centennial celebration.

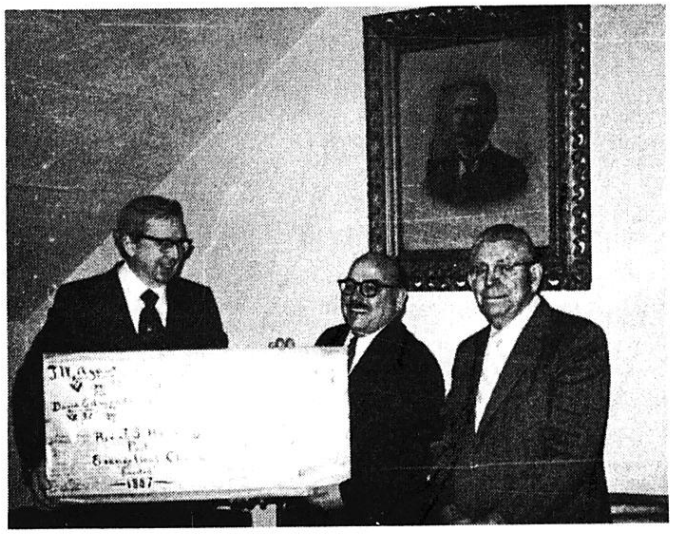
PROCLAMATION

FOR BRADNER'S CENTENNIAL

I, James B. Smith, Proclaim the Week of July 18 through 24, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-six, Bradner Centennial Week.

One Hundred Years have passed since the Mt. Prospect Addition was accepted and Bradner became recognized as a village, on the date of February 7, Eighteen Hundred and Seventy-six.

Let a joyous outcry be heard by all residents and visitors, who are engaged in celebrating Bradner's 100th Birthday as a recognized Village.



Rev. Lender, Mayor Don Graber and Mr. Noel Lentz

STANDING (left to right)--Edward Dow, David Sabo, Mayor James Smith, Vernon Graber, Jack Plouck; SEATED (left to right)--Mary Stahl, Clerk LaVergne Gosden, Henrietta Keller.

Bradner Area Centennial Becomes Bradner Area Bicentennial-Centennial

11-18-75

I HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY ARBA THAT YOUR APPLICATION FOR OFFICIAL BICENTENNIAL DESIGNATION HAS BEEN APPROVED AND EXTEND MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS' YOU MAY TAKE PRIDE IN THIS RECOGNITION OF YOUR CONCERTED, PATRIOTIC EFFORTS FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF OUR NATION'S BIRTH. I COMMEND YOU FOR INITIATIVE IN REFLECTING YOUR VILLAGE'S HISTORY AND ASSURING ITS CONTINUANCE. AS JOHN WARNER SAYS, "WE ARE THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF CENTURIES TO COME," AND IN AMERICA'S THIRD CENTURY, WE WILL ONLY SURMOUNT OUR PROBLEMS AND ATTAIN OUR GOALS WITH A RENEWAL OF THE FAITH, SPIRIT AND IDEALS OF OUR REPUBLIC.

BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS AND CELEBRATIONS.

JOHN GLENN UNITED STATES SENATOR

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

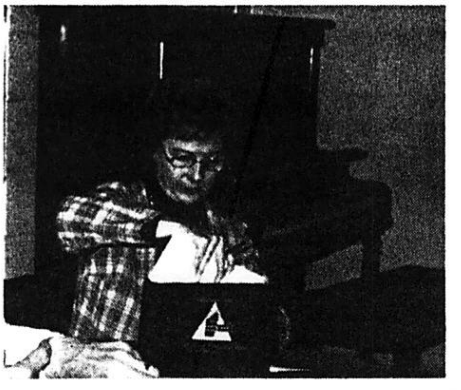
Certificate of Official Recognition

Bradner, Ohio

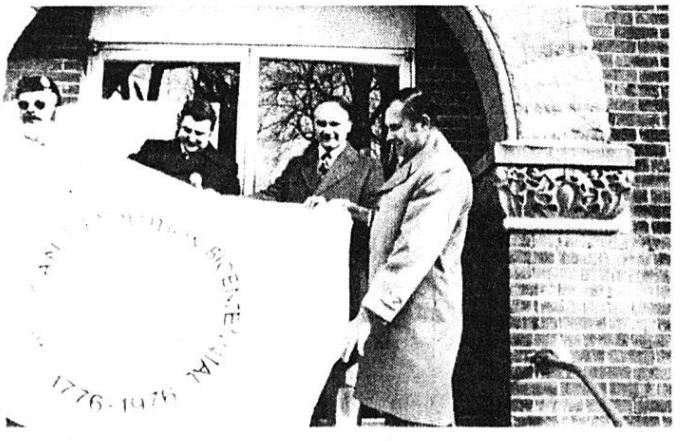
for designation as a Bicentennial Community

By the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

(L to R)--Ronald Bowers, Chairman; Dorothy Herrig, Secretary; H. Keller, Historian; M.C. Morrison, Patriotic.



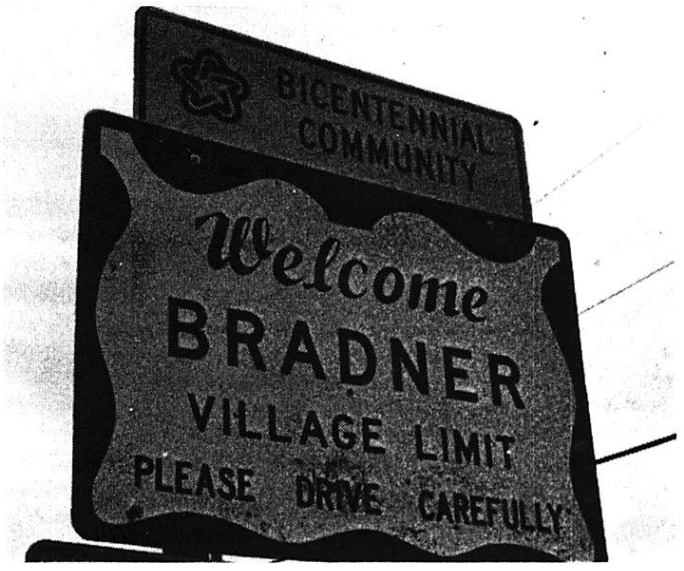
Helen Shultz, Treasurer



(L to R)--R. Bowers, J. Smith-mayor, D. Latta, C. Kurfess.

PROGRAM

Invocation ..... *The Rev. Ivy Hamilton*
Presentation of Colors ..... *American Legion Post 338*
Introduction of Guests ..... *Ronald Bowers, Chrm., Bicentennial-Centennial Committee*
Remarks and Presentation of Flag & Certificate ..... *State Representative The Hon. Charles Kurfess*
Remarks ..... *The Honorable Delbert Latta, U.S. Rep.*
Music ..... *Lakota High School Band*
Benediction ..... *R. J. Leffingwell, Post Chaplain*
Refreshments ..... *American Legion Hall*



Welcome to Bradner sign at city limits.

VILLAGE OF BRADNER
P.O. BOX 516
N. MAIN STREET
BRADNER, OHIO
43406

To the residents and visitors of Bradner's Celebration:

I, James B. Smith, Mayor of the Village of Bradner, welcome you to the festivities which are taking place this week, beginning July 18 through July 24, 1976.

During this week of activities, we will be celebrating not only the country's 200th anniversary, but also Bradner's 100th anniversary of being recognized as a village.

You will be carried back in time, and for those of us who were not yet born, we'll be learning of the events that occurred when Bradner was in its infancy. For those who have lived in the area many years, possibly memories will be brought back of how Bradner was years ago.

Regardless of your age, I hope you will enjoy yourselves this week, and I extend a hearty welcome to the residents and visitors that will be in attendance.

At this time I would also like to thank the Centennial Committee, and all others that have expended their time and energies to make this week possible and a success.

Respectfully yours,

James B. Smith
Mayor

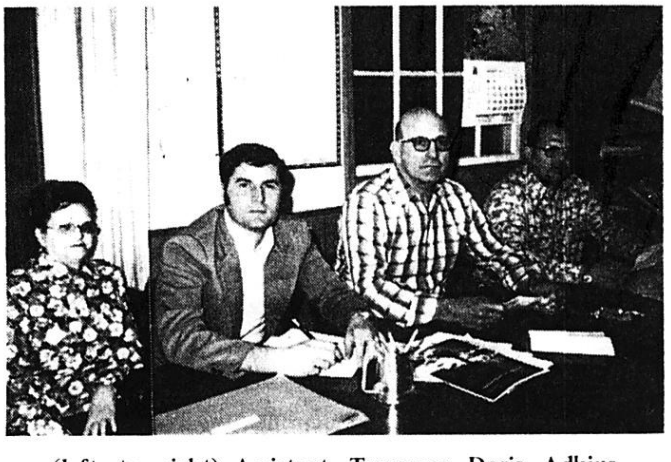
COUNCIL

SEATED (left to right)--Richard Teeple, clerk-treasurer Pat Kreais, Jack Plouck; STANDING (left to right)--Paul Allen, Rex Stump, Mayor James Smith, R.J. Leffingwell, James Markel.

UTILITIES

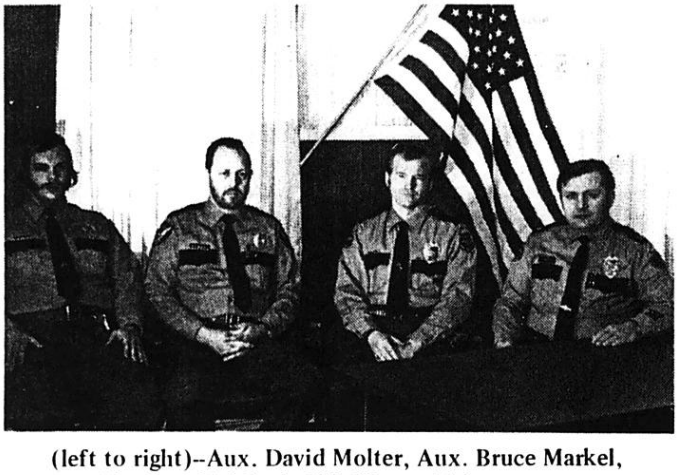
John Stahl and Ray Taylor

BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



(left to right)--Assistant Treasurer Doris Adkins, Kenneth Price, George Shearer, Richard Fairbanks.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



(left to right)--Aux. David Molter, Aux. Bruce Markel, Sgt. Sherman Pickford, Chief James Zeis.

BRADNER'S FIRST FLAG

A band of Bradner patriots at the close of the Civil War conceived the idea of a flag for the community. A meeting was called for the purpose of beginning work on the proposed flag. This meeting, although weak in parliamentary law, was alive with enthusiasm. To Mrs. Milton Schroyer and Mrs. Martin Eckert, needle women of remarkable ability, was assigned the momentous task of acting as the Betsy Rosses of Bradner. To their skilled hands was given the responsibility of making the first flag of their community.

A collection was taken by Mr. John Stephens, David's father, to which all responded generously. The material was procured by Mrs. David Stephens, and in the month of June, 1865, was brought into being Bradner's first Old Glory, a beautiful flag, ten feet wide and twenty-nine feet long, with its thirteen stripes and seventeen stars indicative of national growth.

When the flag was completed, thirty or forty men, led by Mr. Jacob Brough, who resided two miles north of town and who donated his oxen for the occasion, procured a pole 110 feet long which they conveyed to the corner of North Main and Caldwell, and raised into position.

A flag-raising day was set apart, and on the night preceding the great event, the men stood guard all night (It had been rumored that a near-by town was going to steal the pole or do something to it.)

A banquet was prepared and a general celebration. Prospect school was quite well represented, as they presented quite a program under the direction of Miss Caroline Lamb, teacher in the school.

In the morning Bradner community's first flag went up with the rising of the sun, up into place at the topmost point of the gigantic flagpole. And as the folds of that first Old Glory flung out gaily to the Ohio breezes, the loyal watchers swung into the strains that have stirred American hearts for many decades, the words of Francis Scott Keye rang out, "Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light," and as the strains died away, three cheers were given that echoed and re-echoed for many miles around. There were tears and laughter and lumps in throats.

In this manner was born Bradner's first flag. In this manner did a band of loyal patriots fling abroad their devout love of their country.

This flag when last heard of was in the possession of Mr. David Stephens whose father was largely responsible for the success of the project. "If its whereabouts is known by any of our readers," concludes the Advocate article of February 26, 1920, "we would appreciate information on the subject." A Mrs. Mary J. Cook supplied the information, and it was signed: The Committee of six or seven who are left to tell the story.--No doubt some of the school children who had helped celebrate.

OUR CENTENNIAL HYMN

GOD OF OUR FATHERS

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

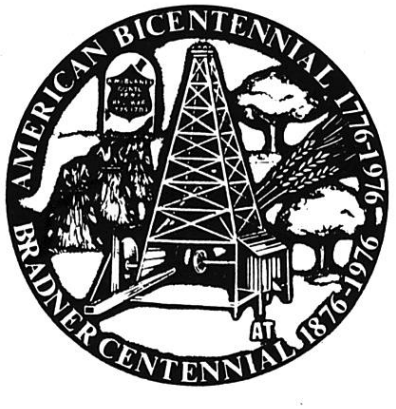
Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay;
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy strong arm our ever-sure defense;
Thy true relgion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine;
And glory, laud and praise be ever Thine.

Mrs. Martin Eckert

OUR CENTENNIAL COIN



Designed by Angela Teeple

Bradner Volunteer Fire Department

SEATED (left to right)--John Stahl, Ass't. Chief; John Seiple, Virgil Shull, chief; SECOND ROW (left to right)--Dan Molter, Jim Graber, Russ Repasz, Kenney Ickes, John Kreais, Kenny Repasz, Russ Holcombe, Tom Stahl, Chris Lentz, Virgil Shull Jr., Bruce Markel, Eddie Rubel, Jim smith; THIRD ROW (left to right)--Calvin Linkey, Chuck Rubel; (many were absent when picture was taken)

Early in 1894, Council purchased a hose truck and Howe Pumper and chemicals at cost of $555.50 for the pumper, 400 feet of hose @40 cents per foot, and 50 pounds dry chemical @10 cents per pound. On February 7, 1894, twenty-five men made themselves available, willing to serve as firemen. They were C. A. Aldridge, A. L. Bordner, C. L. Broyles, O.L. Bryan, W. E. Clark, P.C. Clay, R. DeBrant, M. Entsminger, J. W. Foncannon, W. S. Frees, H. G. Hartman, S. C. Hyter, C. Ladd, J. E. Ladd, Chas. W. Lee, W. G. McCormick, J. M. Miller, O. J. Mitchell, D. W. Peterson, J. M. Stephens, John Stockwell, A. A. Stump, E. Tillotson, A. E. Youngs, W. C. Youngs. An engine house, 24x12x8 was built.

The following year, 1895, saw construction on the Water Works and fire hydrant system rushed to conclusion. Pipes and supplies purchased from Bradner Supply Co. were 900 feet of 3" and 1000 ft. of 4" @13 cents per foot; hydrants were furnished at dealer's cost. Pumps and fittings were purchased from Buckeye Supply Co. at cost of $200.00. In 1892, Council purchased 1½ dozen white duck pants for the Fire Department for $5.88.

On December 4, 1902, to help speed things up, Council offered a $5.00 prize for the first team of horses and drivers to arrive at the station to haul hose cart and apparatus to fire and back to the station after fires.

On July 15, 1904, John H. Lapp moved for the entertainment committee to arrange for a street carnival to benefit the Fire Company and the K. of P. Band. But on August 19, Mr. Lapp reported that the carnival committee had given up without giving a reason.

1905 saw final arrangements on the emblem for the Fire Company. On September 16, 1909, the Volunteer Fire Department was organized. In 1929, the Model AA Ford Pumper was purchased. In 1935, the firemen purchased the town lot for their future home. In 1947, the firemen stored the Civil Defense oxygen unit in the C & O Depot.

The department acquired the Ward LaFrance Pumper with a six-cylinder "Wakasa" engine, a 500 gpm pump and 500 gallon tank. During the same year, 1947, the rear of the Town Hall was remodeled to house the equipment and have a meeting room.

On May 6, 1954, plans were drawn up for the new station and June 3 saw construction begun. One year later on June 2, 1955, the trucks and equipment were moved into the new station house on E. Crocker Street.

In 1960 we purchased the Dodge Pumper 750 gallons per minute.

The Fire Department has had an ambulance service more than twenty years and the last few years have made more than a hundred runs a year.

Getting Acquainted With Bradner's Past

In the year, 1833, two crudely-built covered wagons, drawn by oxen, creaked to a halt where Caldwell now intersects North Main Street. The trail, known then as Sand Ridge road, had followed a ridge of higher ground, making many a crook and turn along the route to avoid the vast swamps where water, at certain times during the year, would reach the saddle girths of a horse. The two men, Daniel Edmonds and David Hanline, leading the oxen, and the boys who trudged along side driving a few cattle, were weary and dust-covered.

They had already had a day of it and it was yet early. Eager to reach their new home that day, they had gotten up with the sun. Two rattlesnakes had picked the very center of the trail to sun themselves, and had contested their right to be there. While the boys were watching the men destroy the snakes, one of the cows had strayed from the trail and gotten into a bog. Dave Jr. and Sam Hanline had a time getting her back on the trail. A pack of wolves had trailed them at a distance until Mr. Edmonds, realizing that little Becky and still younger Cathy were getting hysterical, shot at and scattered them. Mrs. Edmonds (Mary) and her sister Sarah Stahl were quite willing to stop almost any place. Each time they saw a grove of maples, their hearts rejoiced, for Mr. Hanline had told them their new home would have such a grove and they could make their own maple sugar just as the Indians did. But they kept going! He had also told them of the tall grasses that would make fine hay for the cattle, and had painted a glowing picture of how they could stand in their cabin doorway and shoot bear, deer, wild hogs, turkey, rabbit, quail and have all the meat they could eat; also of the tall, straight trees for building homes.

Ahead of the little caravan stretched the trail rambling in a southwesterly direction where it would join the McCutcheonville Pike or Indian Tail as many called it, at Montgomery Crossroads (about where Mermill Road crosses Route 199). Behind them, the sandy route zigzagged eastward, pulling gradually northward where it terminated east of Fremont or Lower Sandusky as it was known. They had come all the way from Wayne County where Daniel Edmonds quite a while before had taken himself a bride, Miss Mary Stahl, a native of that county, and daughter of Jacob Stahl, Sr. (Danny Stahl's grandfather)--many, many miles, keeping to the banks of rivers where possible, for drinking water was a problem, and crossing a number of rivers where they had to wade or swim, guiding the oxen and wagons. The women and the girls and little Zephaniah and younger Daniel had bounced along in the wagons, lurching with every bump and rut amid the household goods and the rattling of the pots and pans hanging around the sides. Underneath the carts were hung baskets, a churn, water kegs and farming tools. At times, all had crowded inside to get out of the driving rains that often left the trail one big mud hole. At one point along the way they had paid a settler to help pull them out of his particular mud hole. At times, all members had gotten out, preferring to walk.

They had paused for a moment, as they had done so often, or so Mary and Sarah thought, to inspect what, this time, looked to them like a promising spot for a home. They looked around at the beautiful trees and farther in could see a lot of maple trees up a hill to their left. "Here is Home!"

The caravan struck out southward, the men swinging their axes, chopping their way to clear a path for the wagons. Dave Jr. and Sam did their share too. About a mile, or so it seemed, from the point where they had left the trail not wishing to settle too close to it, came David Hanline's cry, "All out!" welcome words. They made camp, and oh, how delicious that first meal tasted on home ground! The men and boys laid out the cabin site and marked some trees for cutting. They slept in their wagons as they had been doing every night, but this time with a difference. Not even the howling of the wolvesdisturbed their happiness. Mr. Hanline had told them it was not safe to be out alone at night. They knew that the wolves and wildcats (lynx) would attack people as well as animals and that the best way to get away from wild hogs was to climb a tree and wait till they went away. They had heard that one man had killed seventy-two wolves in just a small area, but they slumbered peacefully. This was the last camp site for the Edmonds!

At dawn, the forest echoed with the ring of axes and the excited voices as the boys and men set about chopping down trees and clearing away the undergrowth, chipping out stumps, and sawing the logs to the desired length, twelve and eighteen feet. The two women and the little ones did some exploring, not too far away. They also helped to clear the space, carrying away small stones and brush.

In this clearing, they built the cabin, a home of their own, located in Section 12 (which was named Montgomery Township the following year) as the claim was entered on the records in the office at Bucyrus, Ohio, on November 16, 1833. The abstract was signed by President Andrew Jackson, and made out in the names of Simeon and Daniel Edmonds. (Here records disagreed. I shall give two views, and if the reader has the correct information, it will be welcomed. The Edmonds children, according to Beers, pp.958-9, were "(1) Rebecca, the widow of George St. Clair of Clinton County, Mich.; (2) Zephaniah, who made his home in Putnam County, Mo.; and enlisted in April, 1861, in the 18th Mo.; (3) Catherine, Mrs. James Swanev,of Jackson County, Iowa; (4) Andrew, who died in early manhood; (5) Elizabeth, who married John Casebeer, and was killed by lightning at Blue Springs, Neb.; (6) Simon, who enlisted in Company K, 144th O.V.I., was captured August 13,1864, near Berryville, Va., and died at Anapolis, Md., October 23, 1864; (7) Servetus L., who enlisted in same company and regiment as Simon. also captured near Berryville at the same time, and died at Wheeling, W. Va., March 25, 1865; (8) Naomi, who died in childhood; (9) Mary, also deceased; (10) David, born October 1, 1846; (11) John, a real estate dealer in Toledo; and (12) Rosanna." It was generally agreed that the Edmonds little girl was the first white child born in this part. Anna Kirk told that the Indians came to marvel and gaze long at the little white baby. One account called her Elizabeth; another account said: daughter, born November 14, 1834; another said: the second child of Daniel Edmonds, a girl. Who is Simeon in whose name the claim was registered? Is he a brother of Daniel, a father, or an uncle? Or is he Simon the sixth child? If he is the latter, then the baby girl would have to be Naomi or Mary. Who is Simeon? Anyway, we do know that the Indians marveled at the little lady--the first white child born in Montgomery township.

David Hanline, Sr., owner of the second wagon and leader of the group, had been in the vicinity earlier and on August 7

of that year had entered 160 acres in Section 11, but had gone back to Pennsylvania without erecting any buildings. He was returning now, that fall, with his boys to set up his home so that his wife and daughters could join him in the spring. The following spring, 1834, in April, his son David Jr., approximately twenty-three years old, entered 80 acres in Section 1, Montgomery Township, where he erected a "log cabin with a stick chimney and there lived in true pioneer style." (Beers, p.832), later moving to Madison Township. His father did not stay long in Wood County either, but moved to Wells County, Indiana. A number of Hanline descendants with different names are still residing in the Bradner area.

Sarah Stahl that same year, 1833, married David Mogle whose mother was the first white woman to be buried in Chestnut Ridge Cemetery. Young people did not hesitate to marry in those days because they "had not yet secured a competence." It was to be a helpmeet in making their united fortunes one of prosperity and happiness, and at age fifteen girls were capable of taking entire charge of household affairs.

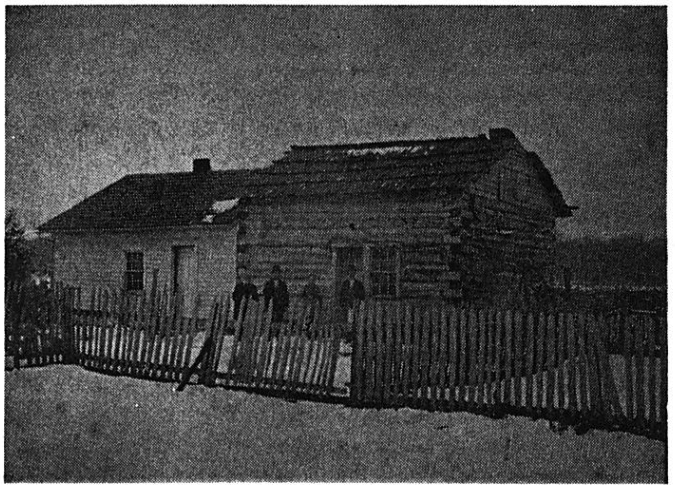
And so the cabin was built--the first dwelling in what was to become one of the most talked about towns in the country. It probably had a rough floor made of heavy boards chopped from logs, a clapboard roof with cracks chinked with moss gathered by the children in the surrounding woods, a fireplace of clay mud and sticks held together with grass and a stick chimney as many of the day were constructed. The windows were holes left in the walls and covered only by a board that could be pulled into place. The door was covered by a blanket.

Ella Schroyer never tired of hearing her grandmother tell of the bear coming to the door, and of the time when David Edmonds, father, was gone to Tiffin to get a door for the cabin, the trip taking six days in all as he had to chop a way through. wolves came prowling around the cabin, and one night, one more venturesome, pushed aside the blanket and walked boldly in. The family were terribly frightened, but "with true herosim that frequently comes when danger threatens, Mrs. Edmonds picked up a chair and went for him. The older children followed their mother's example, and soon succeeded in driving out the intruder." (Beers p.338) They probably did not sleep that night or any night until they welcomed back the husband and father bringing the door--one that an inquisitive nose could not push aside.

As has been said, water was of supreme importance and a well had to be dug--hard work in any soil. That well was still in use in the late '90's. Ella Schroyer remembered cranking the wheel and drawing water. It has long since been filled in for safety and sanitation laws, but the outline can still be seen and a cistern pump now marks the spot.

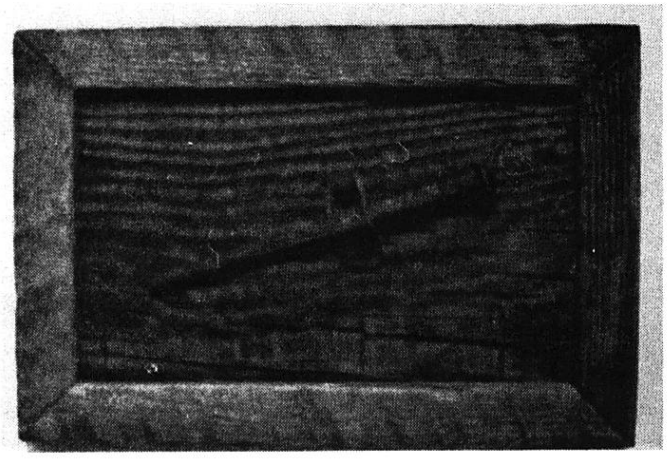
The plaque made from a piece of the rough boards used in the first barn to house the animals and a nail saved from the first log cabin.

The first work, after getting settled in the cabin and erecting shelter to house the animals, was to clear off four or five acres of land, getting it ready for spring planting as they had brought along a large amount of seed. That fall was spent gathering berries, wild grapes, and nuts of all kinds: hickory nuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, butternuts and chestnuts in abundance. As a kid this writer remembers the chestnut trees at Chestnut Ridge Cemetery and gathering them and feeling the soft fur inside the prickly bur; They gathered pennyroyal, spearmint, catnip, and other herbs for drying, stringing apples for drying, making applebutter and jelly, butchering,



Log cabin

soapmaking, candle dipping, making feather beds and pillows from down and feathers of the wild fowl that had been saved; they ate their fill of wild turkeys, geese and ducks. Zephaniah learned early to use the axe and rifle and how to hunt and trap. He helped his father make the cabin warm for winter. Animal pelts had to be prepared for use as coats, caps, mocacasins, rugs. Wood had to be cut and piled. During the winter Daniel whittled utensils, made extra stools and tables. Ella had a cherry table that was brought with our settlers more than a hundred seventy-five years old now. Catherine and Andrew were taught how to knit and pound stones to sand for scouring and other useful things that their little hands could do to help mother. It was a great day when Daniel found a bee tree, but not such a happy time when a skunk got caught in a trap. Porcupines proved a nuisance and their dog learned to avoid them. Years later, the Edmonds brothers owned a skunk farm south of town. There was little time for idleness, but Christmas found a tree decorated with strings of popcorn, and illuminated with little tapers made earlier just for the occasion, and turkey wishbones which Rebecca had crocheted around as ornaments hanging from the limbs. I am sure that the Hanline men sat down with them and enjoyed the good things, and joined in singing the Christmas carols Stille Nacht and O Tannenbaum. They would be amazed at the Christmas customs today, but be right at home singing America's favorite Christmas music.



Spring brought maple sugar time (Ella told of the older ones standing over the big iron kettles, stirring and stirring as the sap boiled down, and oh! how good it tasted when it got thick!), corn planting, and potatoes. They sold about forty bushel of corn that year, besides having all they wanted to use, and raised about fifty bushels of potatoes from two bushels of seed. They sent samples home of the corn and wrote many letters full of bear tales, and of all the furs they had, and what good eating young bear was and of their bountiful crops.

"They had brought with them in a box a quantity of peach pits (Beers, pp.338-9) and upon opening it found they had sprouted. These they set around stumps or whereever they could find a spot for them. In three years they had plenty of peaches and in five years over a hundred bushels rotted on the ground. (If only they could have had refrigeration!) The first harvest proved beyond a doubt that the soil was fertile and very productive. Their hopes had been realized; dreams fulfilled; goals reached. Wealth was to be the reward for hardships encountered and privations endured."

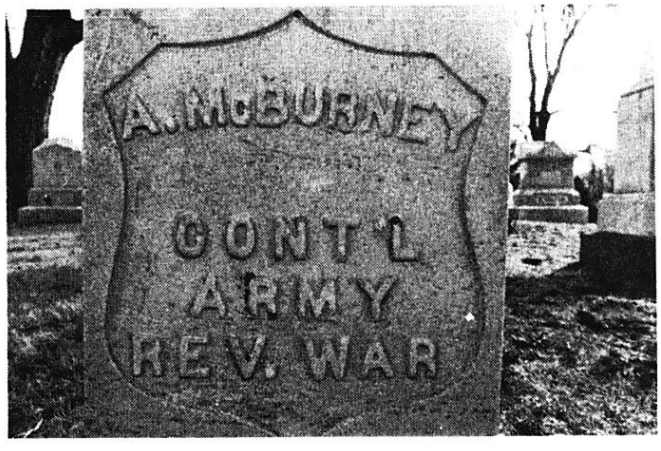
The location proved ideal, and Mr. Edmonds in 1835 built a modest clapboard home, replacing the log hut. What joy to have a real home with floors and doors and windowpanes! At the present time this house still stands on the spot where it was built one hundred forty-one years ago, the oldest house in the vicinity and property of Ella Schroyer who resided there until her death on December 17, 1975. The home is nearly as it was constructed, except a few window changes and a section added on. The lane that led from Sand Ridge Road back to the farmhouse is now for the most part Main Street.

EARLY SETTLERS

1834 and 1835 found new settlers arriving, purchasing large plots of land and erecting homes. Among them are listed the names of Godfrey Stahl, Mary and Sarah's brother and father of Danny; Benjamin Scott; Abraham McBurney, a Revolutionary War veteran, who had come from Ireland in 1775 to serve with the Continental Army and had come to this region with Mad Anthony Wayne, and, in his seventies at this time, he became the first white man to be buried in Chestnut Ridge Cemetery. From the June 5, 1925 Advocate comes this article:

DEDICATE MARKER

"Residents of Bradner and vicinity were given a rare opportunity, Saturday, (May 30) when it was their privilege to be present at the unveiling and dedication services of a marker



Shroyer house

to a Revolutionary War veteran at Chestnut Ridge Cemetery. The services were conducted following the decoration of the graves. The marker was concealed in the folds of a flag...It is of white marble, standing about two and one-half feet high. On the shield near the top is the inscription, 'A.McBurney, Continental Army, Revolutionary War.' The little monument is the gift of the Government of the United States, and was secured through the efforts of Jane Washington Chapter, D.A.R. of Fostoria...In addition to the marker, the Fostoria ladies have contributed a beautiful bronze tablet which rests just below the inscription. It bears the date of the conflict, 1776-1783, a powder horn, an old colonial cannon, and the name of the order that presented the tablet...The Jane Washington Chapter, D.A.R. of Fostoria, and especially Mrs. Charles Cribbs (who gave the dedicatory address) deserve commendations for their interest and patient efforts in the matter." Michael Mogul's wife, as has been mentioned, was buried near his grave.

Other settlers were John Hamilton, Section 11; John Stephens, north of Caldwell and west of Main, Section 2;G.H. Hathaway, Section 2; Jacob Plantz, grandfather of George Plantz, Section 1; Jacob Houck, west of Main and South of Cherry. It is a matter of record that the Indians made regular trips to Tiffin where they took in a "plentiful supply of fire water and filled their jugs for the journey home." They could be heard whooping and hollering far down the trail and when one would fall from his horse his fellow Indians would build a fire around him and let him sleep it off and get home. We wonder if they ever bothered our settlers.

None of these were real close neighbors. They had to raise or make nearly everything they needed. When anyone needed help, every family stood ready. If a new settler wished to put up a cabin, all came from miles around to help. The women brought baskets of food and got a big meal ready while the men worked on the house or the barn. When accidents or sickness kept a farmer from planting or harvesting his crops, his neighbors always worked together to get the work done.

The pioneer mothers, besides the care of a large family whom they often fed from meal ground by their own hands, found time to do many generous deeds for the sick or needy. None went from their doors unaided if it was in their power to afford relief. Barn-raisings, quilting-bees, corn huskings brought the families together with opportunity for socialization. They celebrated with feasting and dancing. Courtships, marriages, and deaths provided cause for gatherings. Families would drive quite a distance for fellowship; some even walked.

When they took grain to the mill to have it ground, or to the store to be traded for salt, heavy boots, and other supplies, they had to go in the wagon. The oxen traveled more slowly than horses, but could pull heavier loads through the mud. A supply of cornmeal was an absolute necessity. Corn meal in some form was served at every meal--as mush, pone, hoecake, johnnycake or cornbread. The way it was cooked made the difference. Corn pone had small pieces of sliced bacon in it and was baked in the hot ashes of the fireplace; hoecake was cooked in a hot griddle; when baked on a smooth board, it was johnnycake. For variety they also had "hot-riz" biscuits, cabbage made into kraut, and hominy which the Indians taught them how to make. The Indians also taught them how to eat raccoon. This writer remembers the first and last taste of coon and muskrat she ever had. These settlers probably attended the hard cider campaign of William Henry Harrison in the 1840's.

ADVERSITY

But life was not all fun and games. In the midst of prosperity there came a severe winter and killed those peach trees, and although they tried frequently, they never succeeded in raising another peach. They also saw a great deal of sickness. Quoting from Beers, p. 107:

"The early settlers of what is called the Black Swamp had a great deal of sickness. So much water on the land surface caused so much malaria, biliousnous, that chills, fever and ague were the results. Whenever a new family made their appearance and settled down, we all would say, 'There's another family with whom we can divide the shakes.' It took from three to five years to get acclimated; every year, from about the first of July, until frost and cold made its appearance, the people had the ague, and they looked for it as much, and it came as regularly, as summer and fall came. It took hold of a person and literally shook him up. I have seen fellows go to bed with the ague, and when the shake came on, the very bed and floor would rattle. Many times whole families would be down at the same time, so that no one could give another a drink of water. The ague usually came on every other day and sometimes there appeared to be about two agues for every one man; and oftentime, they had to have it twice in one day. The "well" day, as we called the day we missed it, men would be able to do some light work, and it may seem strange, but the day the chill was to come on, you could look out from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and you would see the boys come in to take their shake, as much as to take their dinners. We were not troubled much in those days from any disease of malignant form. Aside from the ague, we had some biliousness, intermittent and remittent fevers. We had no need of a doctor to bleed the patient, for the pesky mosquitoes did all the bleeding necessary."

Mrs. Edmonds had the ague during the summer months for seven years in succession. The malarial fever caused many deaths, for screens were unheard of, and windows closed only by strips of wood held in place by wooden pegs. The mosquitoes just swarmed in the houses and nearly devoured the occupants. In fact, a baby girl in neighboring Scott Township had died from literally being one big mass of bites. An almost unbelievable story, but one that oldtimers corroborated: a man sighted some deer and raised his rifle to shoot, but the mosquitoes settled so thickly on the barrel and so quickly that he could not draw a bead on the deer. In 1837, the Maumee Express ran some verses which closed with words:

"There's a funeral every day, without a hearse or pall;
They tuck them in the ground with breeches, coat and all."

Coffins were made from basswood and planed by hand. Annie Kirk told of how, when she was a girl, the Indians would silently appear at the door of their home and ask for quinine. The sight of the Indians scared her, but the Indians never harmed them.

DOCTORS

With all of this illness, what about doctors? Dr. Kinnamon was the first physician in Montgomery Township and Beers p.333 gives a fascinating description of a surgical operation he performed.

"His coming was hailed with delight by the settlers in 1836. He located about a half-mile west of two miles north of West Milgrove. A very large walnut stump served as a laboratory, drug depository and general reception room. Many times in riding, he would cut down a tree, hitch his horse to one of its branches and let him browse until his patient was out of danger, often from eight to ten hours. The following is an instance of this man's nerve and ability...Swayn, a pioneer of Perry, then living in Bloom, was hurt by a falling tree. In a few days it was found necessary to amputate the leg. Dr. Kinnamon was sent for and arrived. Without any assistance and with no surgical instruments but a razor and an old saw, the doctor amputated the limb neatly and speedily, and the man got well. Dr. Kinnamon died in 1837, a victim of overwork."

While this little narrative has nothing to do with our town, it is quite likely that he attended Mrs. Edmonds and others in our area who suffered from the ague and a multitude of other ailments. Quinine and whiskey were the accepted medicines of the day.

In September, 1846, came the Black-Erysipelas epidemic. In 1854, the cholera epidemic was incomparably the most severe scourge that ever fell on Ohio towns. In 1853, three ditches were authorized for Montgomery Township. These improvements and others in Wood County not only rendered the soil more fertile, but also rendered the climate as healthful as any county between the Alleghany range and the Rocky mountains. Many doctors found their way to Wood County. Those mentioned in Beers as belonging to Bradner list Dr. Taggart as the first physician of the settlement; Dr. Todd Caris, 1867, and still here in 1897; Dr. Johnson in 1881; Dr. J.U. Schnetzler in 1886, lettered the Board in 1887 and moved to Wisconsin in 1888; Dr. J.E. Furste in 1888; Dr. T. S. Carman in 1889. Since then a long list: Dr. Z.R. Chamberlain, Tompkins, Pembers, Kern, Oscar Wolcott (one of his patients called him a horse doctor, but the only one available when she had typhoid fever); Sol Henline, a veterinary; Dr. Sprinkel; Dr. George VanPelt, who ushered this writer into the world, thereby disappointing a brother who expected to find twins; Dr. A.P. Black; Dr. Wm. Tucker, Dr. Calvin F. Jackson, Drs. Taylor, Marlowe, Jablonski, Elliott, Masyk, Sloniki.

Bradner Mutual Enterprises, an organization formed in 1947 to promote community interests and particularly, industrial expanision purchased a home in 1951 as an inducement for a physician to move here. We secured the services of Dr. Elliott at the time and then two more doctors were here for a time.

At the present time, Brander is without a doctor.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Article I of the ORDINANCE OF 1787 provides for freedom of worship or religious sentiment.

Most of the first settlers belonged to some church back East, but they went wherever and whenever they could in the wilderness. The desire to worship their Creator became uppermost in their minds after they had their homes established and the matter of sustenance was assured.

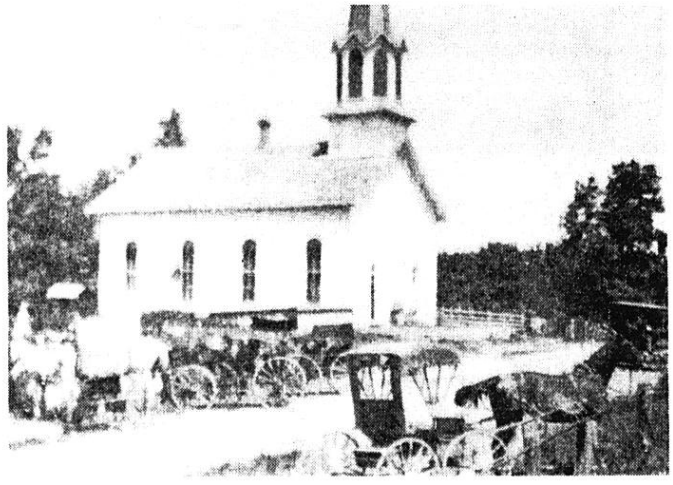
Daniel Edmonds, being of Methodist Protestant persuasion, erected a little log church in 1836 on the peak formed by his lane and the angling Sand Ridge Road. People came by foot, walking through woods and swamp, on horseback or by wagon, through snow or mud, through sunshine or rain, to seek fellowship of believers and to forsake not the assembling of themselves together. Rev. Horner was the first pastor. (See Anna Kirk's painting on back cover.)

In 1845 or 1846 a little log church appeared on Chestnut Ridge to the east about a mile. These two churches are very definitely a part of Bradner history. More of this church, later.

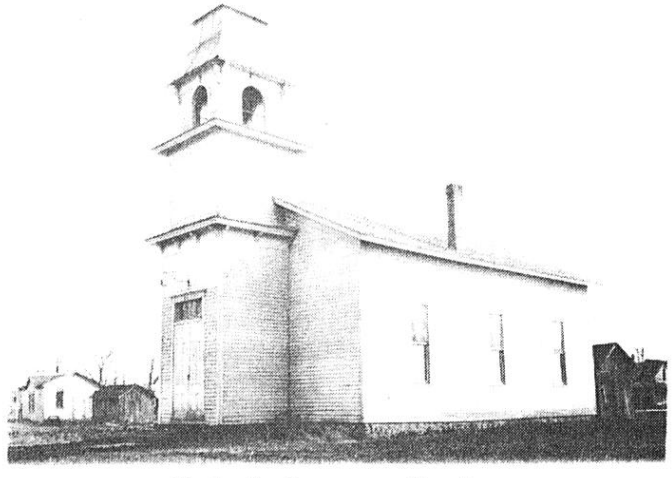
In 1844 the Millerites came preaching the end of the world and a day was fixed and the people waited. It is reported that one man in the county had the doctrine so dinned in his ears that "one dark night the smokehouse in the yard caught fire. The lurid glare of the rising flames soon flashed with blinding effect on the bedroom window. With a piteous groan he sprang out of bed shouting, "My God, the judgment day's come upon us and my soul is unprepared. Call the boys." And he fell on his knees half-asleep yet and began praying so loud there was no need of further fire alarm.

In the 1840's also, Spiritualists claimed great powers and many eerie happenings were discussed at the table and whispered about-- one woman's clothes dropped off; one man sitting in the house looked out the window and exclaimed, "There's Pa out there!" Pa had been dead for years. Folks claimed to be talking to the dead.

These two groups gained no following in our little settlement.



St. Jacobs at Chestnut Ridge



Methodist Protestant Church

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

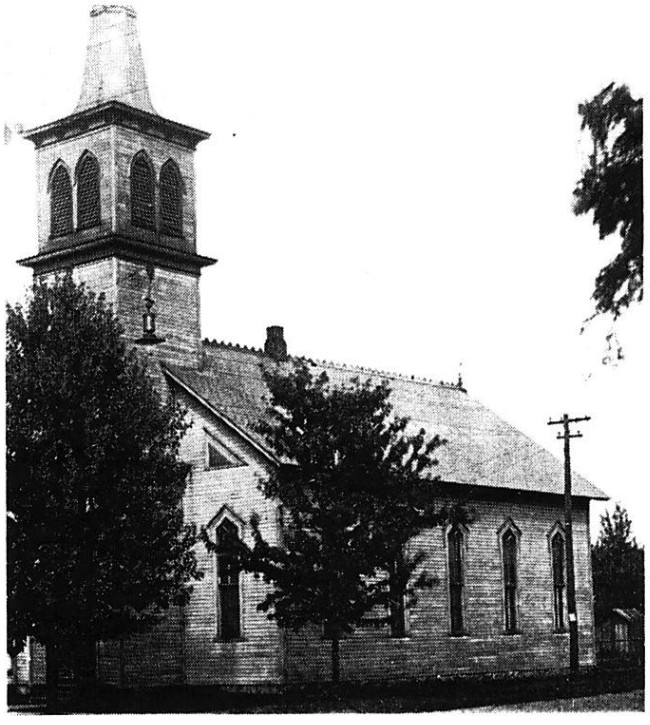
The little community of Mt. Prospect grew as more and more settlers came, and the little log church was no longer adequate. By 1864, most of the settlers had good homes, and they desired to worship their Lord in a better house. Daniel Edmonds again donated land,-- this time on the southwest corner of what is now Caldwell and East Streets. He also donated all of the timber hewn from his forest. Abram Hyter, Anna Kirk's father, donated all of the sawed stuff and all of the furnishings. He cut the timber from his own woods and hauled it to his own sawmill just south of his farmhouse located on the angling road (Church Street) Harold Dehnhoff's parents owned this property later and then D.J. Klingman, then Stineharts on 281 just southwest of town; the corporation line ends across the road from the house at the present writing. Here in the sawmill, Mr. Hyter constructed the chairs, pulpit and tables himself, rubbing them to a beautiful finish by hand (almost a lost art); then he delivered them to the church. This writer believes that the pews are still in use at the Risingsun Holiness Camp.

And so the M.P. church stood within sight of the business district of the little community that in another decade would receive a name and be recognized as a village, and then a second decade would be in the midst of the frenzy of oil--getting, and suffering the pangs of population explosion.

Although the little church was beginning to fail as the charter members were getting up in years, and many had passed on to meet their Maker, the Lord has always kept a remnant to call people to Himself, and He had not forgotten Bradner.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

In 1887, a little group that had been holding services in the M.P. Church, purchased lot No.83 from John Bradner just at the foot of the hill on N. Main and Lightner, and erected the Evangelical Church. Dr. J.U. Schnetzler, who had come to the village the year before, lettered a board listing the names of the builders and donors, as follows: J.W. Wyant, E.A. James, David Edmonds, his own name, Rev. J.S. Hawks Pastor of the little group; E. Evans-Hardware; J.P. Evans-Drug Store; Palmer Brandon-Grocer; O.P. Huffman-Hotel; R. Graham-barber; Hardware; J. Miller-blacksmith; Miss Sadie Carpenter-milliner; J.W. Wyant-understaker; W.B. Ayres-station agent; J.H. and D. Stephens-Grocer and post office; J.U. Schnetzler-M.D. and Artist; Mrs. L.E. Wyant, nee Showalter; Mrs. Eliza James, nee McCracken; Mrs. Josephine Edmonds, nee Smith; Mrs. J.U. Schnetzler, nee Stolz. For future generations, the board further noted that Bradner was recognized as a village in 1876; with 87 inhabitants; on June 15, 1887, when the board was



Evangelical Church

lettered, 500 inhabitants; wheat declined 19½ cents on the 14th of June; oil was discovered in Bradner in 1886; a refinery was built in 1887. The board was nailed into the pulpit with the writing inside. The following year, 1888, Dr. Schnetzler moved to Wisconsin. By 1896, the little church had an itinerant pastor, Rev. W.D. Genertesfelder, who served Mt. Tabor E V Church in Section 28, Salem in Perry, and Trinity in Sandusky, as well. The board was forgotten. In 1908, an Advocate stated that there had been "no pastor for two years and no doubt it would never have services again." The Church changed hands several times: in 1919, the L.D.S. held services in it; in 1920, the E V Church sold to W. H. Plantz; in 1921, the St. Jacobs Lutheran Church bought it; on January 19, 1925, the St. James Lutheran Church claimed it; on October 22, 1969, the Faith Calvary Church purchased the building. The pulpit, replaced by one more ornate, had been demoted to a basement storage room where it got water soaked and very nearly destroyed; then, in 1969, it was restored to its rightful place, and polished to shine in use for the Lord once again. For eighty-four years the pulpit had kept its secret well-hidden. In 1971, always getting kicked, and becoming a source of irritation, the board was removed, revealing its message in time to celebrate Bradner Centennial together with the nation's Bicentennial.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Prior to 1886, Methodist preachers from Prairie Depot and elsewhere held meetings at Bradner. In the fall of that year, Rev. M. T. Ayres was appointed to the Prairie Depot circuit. In December of the same year, the Bradner Methodist Church was organized with eighteen charter members: Mr. & Mrs. Eb James, Mr. & Mrs. Alford Rees, Mr. & Mrs. Byron James, Mr. & Mrs. Half, Mrs. Armedia Frees, Mrs. Ella Whelan, Mrs. Lucy Furste, Mr. & Mrs. James Evans, Mr. & Mrs. George Perry, Mr. & Mrs. Ira Frees, and Mrs. Gale Hyter. For the next three years services were held in the Methodist Protestant Church.

In the fall of 1889, Rev. W. U. Spencer was appointed to the Prairie Depot circuit, and continued services at Bradner. The work increased and in 1891 lot No.105 was purchased

Methodist Church

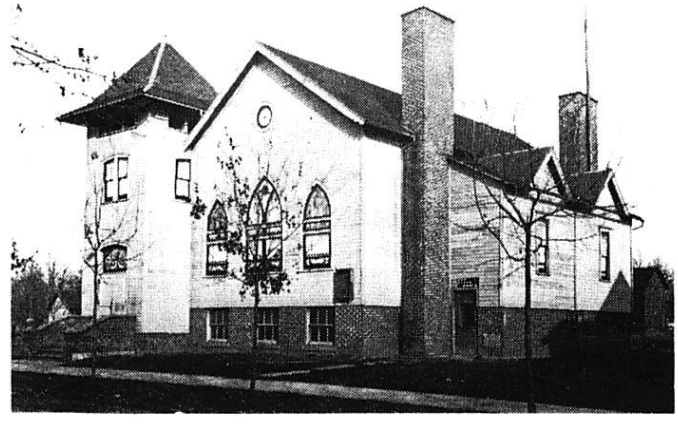
and the Methodist Church was built at the cost of $3000. on East Street. On August 23, the church was dedicated by Rev. P.P. Pope, Presiding Elder of the Toledo District.

Brother E. S. James worked untiringly in establishing Methodism in Bradner. On January 19, 1905, he passed on and his funeral services were conducted in the church with Rev. W. T. Dumm, the first resident pastor, presiding.

In 1891, Rev. Oramel Shreves was appointed for three years, succeeded in 1894 by Rev. I. N. Kalb, followed in three years by Rev., Daniel Stecker in 1897.

In June of 1898, the Trustees were fortunate in securing the property adjoining the church on the south lot No. 106, for a parsonage for $550. At that time there was a debt of $500 on the church building and this amount was raised.

In the spring of 1899, the Epworth League paid $50 on the parsonage debt, reducing it to $400. By fall of that same year, the Ladies Aid succeeded in paying off the indebtedness. W. B. Gregg was superintendent of the Sunday School. the Epworth League held Sunday evening devotional meetings. The Junior League held its devotional services every Sunday afternoon under the guidance of Mrs. M. C. Frees, Superintendent.



United Methodist Church

In 1902, Rev. C. A. Moore was appointed for two years, succeeded by Rev. J.W. Miller in 1904. At this time the parsonage was in need of repairs. The Trustees found a house for Rev. Miller's use, and the work of remodeling and enlarging the parsonage was completed on June 15, 1905, at a cost of $850.

In 1906, Rev. C. A. Moore was again appointed minister, followed in 1908 by Rev. S.W. Scott.

During the pastorate of Rev. G.A. Whitlock in 1911, the church was remodeled at a cost of $6,500. The Building Committee was W.C. Youngs, G.F. Van Pelt, and Bert Rozelle, assisted by men of the church who labored day after day at the task of rebuilding. In 1913, Rev. R.E. Carter became the minister, followed in 1915 by Rev. D.E. Rhoades. On February 7, 1915, the first M. E. Church of Bradner was dedicated. The first service of the day was Sunday School and Dr. W.D. Parr of Kokomo, Indiana, had charge of the service. Later a public service was held with Dr. Parr presiding, and under his leadership $3,258 was pledged.

The following ministers were appointed: 1916-Rev. J.W. Wilch; 1918-Rev. Grant McNealy; 1919- Rev. S.D. Penhorwood who retired from the ministry because of poor health; 1920-Rev. Charles Cramer who organized the first Boy Scouts in Bradner; 1922-Rev. O.P. Smith; 1923- Rev. Frank H. Carnes; 1924-Rev. Houser; 1927-Rev. Sessions; 1928- Rev. Carl Brown who was a native of Bradner; 1931-Rev. Archie Lung who was appointed to Bradner and Washington Chapel. In 1932-Rev. Engle died while still Bradner pastor; 1933-Rev. Donald Cryer served two years as a Student Pastor; in 1935, Rev. Walter McCarley was pastor of Bradner and Wayne; in 1936- Rev. E.R. Stafford, Jr. was supply pastor in July and August; and the same year Rev. Michael Yeagle served Bradner and Pemberville and in 1940 Bradner and Gibsonburg, followed by Rev. L.R. Foltz. In 1943-Rev. Ellsworth Allen died of a heart attack while he was pastor; 1944-Student Pastor Rev. Floyd Fought was appointed, followed in 1945 by B. O. Wormley who was not an ordained minister; 1946-Rev. John W. Myers, appointed to Bradner and Union Church; 1947-Rev. Elija Roberts, supply pastor from June till September; 1947-1952 Rev. H.D. Nothstine; 1952-1969, Rev. E.R. Stafford.

In 1968, the United Brethren Church united with the Methodist Church and the name is now the United Methodist Church. In 1969, Rev. Harry Sheplar, a student at Boston, Mass., was Supply Pastor during the summer; 1969-1973, Rev. Roy B. Howell, Student Pastor, was ordained Deacon while serving as pastor.

July, 1971, the parsonage was partially destroyed by fire. The Howell family moved to a residence in town while the parsonage was remodeled.

Rev. Paul Upole, a fully ordained minister of the West Ohio Conference, was appointed.

The Youth (Methodist Youth Fellowship) of the CHurch under several spiritual leaders have contributed a great deal to the Church.

The Presbyterian Church was organized on June 14, 1895, by Rev. Dillon of Bowling Green, Elder Ward of New Rochester, and the local pastor, Rev. Sylvanus Haupert. The charter members were F. Kirk and wife, T. Martin and wife, E.M. Kirk and wife, J.M. Cubbs and wife, the Misses Mattie, Jennie and Pearl Kirk, Charles Kirk, Mrs. Delo, Mrs. Black of Risingsun, and George Murray. This society purchased the old red brick schoolhouse for a nominal sum. F. Kirk was chorister and Chas. Kirk, organist.

This church was still holding services in 1903 when the schoolhouse burned and the School Board rented this building to be used once more as a school.

At the present there is no Presbyterian Church in Bradner.

THE REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

North Western Ohio District Bradner Branch

In the fall of 1919 early in October, two missionaries came to Bradner with Elder Edward Patton of near Mermill, Ohio. Bradner was a small village of eight hundred souls or fewer, and the missionaries felt impressed to find a location in which to preach the Gospel.

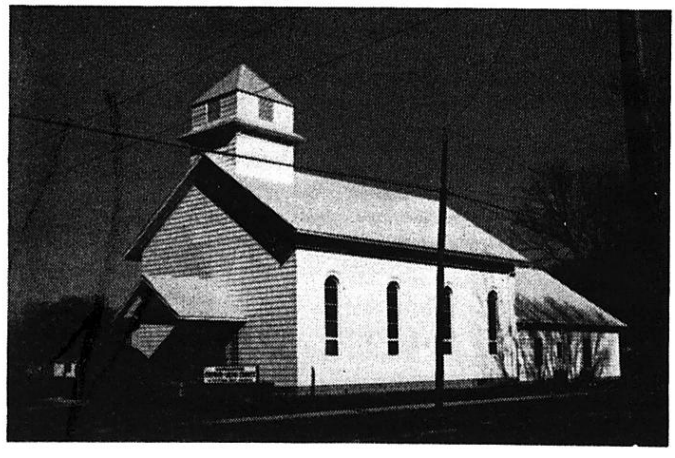
Elders O.J. Hawn and E.L. Ulrich, missionaries, through trustees of the Evangelical Church which had been closed, rented the edifice where the first sermons were preached, with the theme thoughts "Back to the Old Old Path."

Mrs. Cora Peterson had been a member for some years, and meetings were held there in her home and the missionaries remained there.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1919, ten men and women were baptized. By 1924, over one hundred persons had joined the church, and it has been a thriving branch since those days.

Elder Walter Wirebaugh was the first pastor; he later went into missionary work, bringing many into the gospel from the Philadelphia area and others.

LDS Church being moved



Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Other pastors were William F. Smith, Franklin Slye, Edward Patton, Oria Smith, Cleo Smith, Delmar Davis, Wayne Weese, Donald Harms, and Milo Smith.

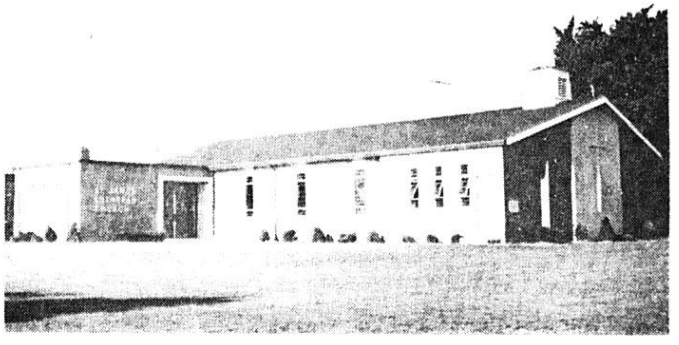
Delmar Davis is pastor at the present time; many have joined the church under his ministry; the membership built a new addition, a fellowship hall, restrooms, fine classrooms and kitchen area.

Music has always been a great part of all services with Mrs. Olive Ulrich, the first music director; Mrs. Hazel Smith for many years, and Mrs. Idella Rojewski.

The lot at the corner of Crocker and Bell was purchased for $150.00.

In 1921, the St. Jacobs Evangelical Lutheran Church, located on the hill at Chestnut Ridge Cemetery about one mile east of Bradner, was purchased and moved onto the purchased lot. It has gone through many changes, and in 1954, was completely covered with white aluminum siding.

This building stands as a "Great Torch of Service" in the community.



St. James Lutheran Church

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1845 or 1846, a mile east of town on Chestnut Ridge on land donated by the Jacob Plantz family, the little log church, known as the Plantz Meeting House or more commonly referred to as the Union Church, was built by Jacobs Evangelical Church under Rev. Cronnenwett, who had come to the Black Swamp area as early as 1841 to work with isolated Lutheran groups.

Sometime during the pastorate of Rev. Kornbaum between the years 1852-1859, the Jacob's congregation took the name Jacob's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

About 1880, the log church was replaced by a fine, well-built frame church. This new church served St. Jacob's as a house of worship for about forty years. In 1896, the group became self-sustaining with Rev. Phillip Ried the first fulltime pastor. He lived in the parsonage purchased in Bradner, lot No.115, on East Street south of Crocker.

In 1912, the church no longer was able to support a fulltime pastor, and Rev. R.E. Reed shared his time with Zion Lutheran near Fostoria. The Lord's work can never prosper where there is bitterness and strife, and Pastor Reed resigned in 1916.

In 1921, the Jacobs congregation sold the church to the Latter Day Saints who moved it to Bradner. The Jacobs Church purchased the Evangelical Church from Wm. Plantz, lot No.83. The following year, Rev. Paul A. Adams, sharing his ministry with Zion Lutheran, began his ministry. The congregation took on new life, remodeled the building, and changed the name to St. James Lutheran CHurch on January 19, 1925.

The next six years saw the congregation waver and decline in numbers and morale, being supplied by neighboring pastors.

In 1931, Rev. E.G. Richter, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Pemberville, took an interest and saved St. James from total disintegration.

In 1933, Rev. Wm. F. Wiegman began his ministry, and in 1935 was called as their pastor. In 1942, the Women's Missionary Society established a building fund. In 1946, the Sunday School sponsored the addition of two rooms to the church. In 1952, a planning committee studied the needs and the congregation voted to raise a fund to purchase or build a parsonage. In 1935, a tract of land was purchased on the corner of Caldwell and Timmons Road for a parsonage and future re-location and expansion of church facilities. By 1955, the land was paid for. In 1958, a parsonage was built.

In 1959, Rev. Wiegman announced his retirement effective July 1, 1960. Since that date Pastor Wiegman has been Pastor Emeritus. On that date Pastor Elder Panning began his ministry. The new parsonage was completed in December.

In 1963, Pastor Panning received a call to Michigan, and on July 1, Pastor Reinhold Markwart began his ministry. The congregation was looking over plans for a sanctuary and an educational unit. A ground-breaking ceremony was held July 18, 1965, for a new church, a fellowship hall and educational unit. Contracts were awarded. On June 12, 1966, the dedication of the new church was solemnized, with facilities well-equipped to carry out the purpose so well expressed at the time of the dedication of the old church in 1921:

"To preach the whole Word of God--
both Law and Gospel.

To confess the Christ Who is the
Saviour from sin.

To foster a Faith that is not only pure,
but one that is active and shows itself
in Christian works.
Praise be to Thee, O Lord."

At the present time the church is without a called pastor.

In 1930, the United Brethren in Christ was formed with Pastor Karns, but it was shortlived.

THE BRADNER HOUSE OF PRAYER

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Psalms 127:1.

The Bradner House of Prayer was organized in November, 1939, as an America Back to God Prayer Group.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Iva Eckert and daughters, Opal and Marjorie, the first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Alta Russell with seven members present: Mrs. Bert Rozelle, Mrs. Simon McComb, Mrs. Claude Hiser, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Eckert, Opal and Marjorie.

This group continued to meet each week in homes in the community for prayer and Bible study with the membership growing steadily until it became too large for homes.

At this time the Lord opened the old Methodist Protestant

Bradner House of Prayer

Church at the corner of East and Caldwell Streets to the group. This building belonged to the Grange and the group rented it, holding services weekly on Monday evenings for three years, at which time the building was purchased by the group in November, 1942, and became the Bradner House of Prayer.

In 1963, the Church Board began plans to build a new church and in May, 1964, Architects Buehrer and Stough of Toledo, Ohio, were hired to draw the plans.

In December, 1967, the congregation moved into the old Lutheran Church, and the House of Prayer (the M. P. Church erected in 1864 by A. Hyter and D. Edmonds,) now 103 years old, was demolished.

In June, 1968, the Church Board voted to hire Mr. Melvin Lanzer, Contractor and builder from Napoleon, Ohio, to erect the new edifice. The ground-breaking ceremony was held in July, with the Board members, June Peoples, Rolland Stinehart, Rev. Robert Lender, Vere Peoples, Kenneth Roberts, and Marjorie Stinehart, breaking-ground in the form of a cross. On October 1, construction was begun.

The first service in the New House of Prayer was held in June, 1969. Dedication ceremony was held, Sunday afternoon, September 28, 1969.

This church was made possible through prayers, sacrifices, and gifts of those who love God. It was built to fill all your spiritual needs, to point to a Heavenly Father who loves and cares for each and every one, to the Savior Jesus Christ who died on Calvary's cross for the sins of the world, and the Holy Spirit who came to guide and help in every problem in every life.

As we remember all the great things God has done for the Bradner House of Prayer, we can only say from the bottom of our hearts: "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done."

CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church of Christ began meetings in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Hamilton in 1944. As the group grew, they rented the Town Hall for a year, and then held services in the old school building. The present church building was brought here from Maumee in 1947. Classrooms and the baptistry were added on.

Brother Ivy Hamilton has worked and preached for the congregation for several years. Several young men have been trained for the ministry and some are new missionaries in other countries. We have fifty to seventy-five present each Lord's Day. The ladies meet each Tuesday to sew for the elderly and for orphans homes and to have a Bible study. We meet each Wednesday evening at 7:00 o'clock for Bible study, and Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. The church extends a cordial invitation to everyone to meet with us.

FAITH CALVARY CHURCH

Faith Calvary Church was organized on June 28, 1969, by a small group of people who found themselves with a mutual belief in God, but without a church home. The first meeting was held in the home of Ms. Betty Lombard. Since that time it has moved into the former St. James Lutheran Church which was originally the Evangelical Church built in 1887.

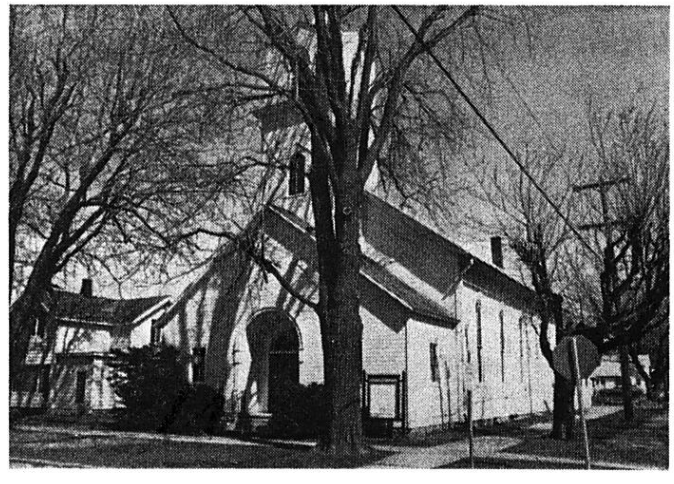
With mutual faith in God, and a deep desire to serve Him, and a willingness to work, the building was purchased on October 22, 1969., remodeled and paid for in full. A fellowship hall and restrooms are before the Ohio State Board at the present time, and anticipated for the near future.

Services are held every Sunday morning and evening and a prayer service each Wednesday. The Rev. Robert Lender of Toledo, Ohio, is pastor.

* * * *

It was in this church in 1971 that the Bradner Centennial Historical Board was re-discovered.

Church of Christ



Faith Calvary Church

Say It For Education

Article III, Ordinance of 1787: Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.

The noble thoughts incorporated in the Ordinance reveal the far-reaching wisdom of our forefathers. Ohioans today are their beneficiaries.

In 1821 just one year after Wood County was organized, Ohio's first school law was passed providing public funds for building schools and allocating monies for children whose parents were too poor to pay their share of school expenses. The law of 1825 levied tax on property for school purposes. Montgomery Township dates back to December 1, 1834, one year after the first log cabin was built on Bradner ground. Frontiersmen had cleared the land, dug out stumps, plowed, harvested, and later defended Ohio with their own hands, and loved the land because something of themselves had gone into it and made it better--personal commitment like that of the fifty-six incredibly brave men who two centuries ago, 1776, risked their families, livelihoods, houses and their very lives to sign the Document which gave birth to our nation. Education and morality constitute the force and majesty of free government; and they wrote their convictions, for at the very start, the three R's--reading, writing and arthimetic, constituted the Course of Study.

Two years later, in 1836, Montgomery Township was authorized to elect school trustees.

Quoting in part from Opal Eckert's school history in Advocate articles, and in part from the special Thanksgiving issue written by the pupils in 1896, from School Board minutes and from Beers, we have reconstructed the school scene of past years. From Sentinel articles we have reconstructed the most recent history.

Back in the good old days when wild turkeys ravaged the grain fields--deep in the heart of an Ohio forest was a tiny clearing scarcely five acres in area where, nestling on the side of a gently sloping hill reposed a little log schoolhouse; from one end a stick chimney rose proudly above the slightly sloping roof. A narrow, winding road stretched out from the eastward and rambled off in a southwesterly direction, and down the hill to this highway the children sped with many a happy shout when the day's final lessons were completed.

Behind it rose a grove of sugar maples known far and near as the Edmond's sugar camp, while to the west of the schoolhouse and stretching to the southward, the Edmond's lane pursued its winding course, flanked on either side by a low, rambling rail fence. The lane led back to the old Edmonds homestead, the childhood home of David Edmonds who passed his entire life in our community. On the opposite side of the lane was the little log Methodist Protestant Church, also backed by dense forests.

Such was the appearance of the little schoolhouse whose history was one day to be linked with one of the noblest institutions of elementary and secondary education in the State of Ohio. Trudging miles to school over muddy, unimproved roads, facing the dangers of deep forests, the young people of that day impart to us a lesson in fortitude.

The little building was known as Mt. Prospect school and was situated on the southeast corner at the junction of what are now Main and Caldwell, with its door opening to the north. The road passing to the north was the first state road in this part of the township and led to Freeport (now Wayne) while Edmonds lane is today our main thoroughfare.

"And thus through storm and sunshine, the little school house looked forth bravely from the hill slope 'with children as many as it could hold, all at the windows open wide heads and shoulders clear outside'."

The annual school term was divided into two sessions, a winter term of four months and a summer term through May, June and July. Should you have entered the school on a day when school was in session, you would have found fifty to seventy-five pupils of varying ages, under the instruction of a single teacher, studying all the common branches of learning: the three r's, grammar, geography, and others.

The most emphasis was placed on spelling. For this recitation the whole school was divided into three classes according to age and ability. A line was drawn on the floor and the children literally "toed the mark," reciting orally.

What did they play at recess? At that time the corner on which the school stood was one of the highest hills in this part of the County. Since that time, improved roads have entered northwestern Ohio and that same hill has been graded away. With timberlands all about, snow covered the ground throughout the entire winter months, and at recess and noon, coasting was the main diversion. The boys and girls did not have shining new coasters, or snowmobiles, but used the benches from the schoolhouse for the sport.

In the summer, they enjoyed ball games, "anti-over," or at times scoured the grain fields for quails' nests. Toads, frogs, garter snakes, small birds, anything that was small enough to fit in a pocket and could be caught or hidden inside a shirt eventually found their way into a desk drawer. One could tell by the intensity of the shriek when one of the little creatures was found. Down Edmonds lane about two hundred yards towered two oak trees providing ample shade. On warm days pupils and teacher hurried to this cool spot to partake of the contents of their "dinner pails," and then play "mumble-de-peg."

No well was on the school grounds, and water had to be carried from the Hathaway spring, situated on what is now the Entsminger property (lot 414) on the southeast intersection of Lightner and Church and Spring Streets. We believe Spring Street received its name from this spring. Great rivalry existed to carry the water. Two boys were usually sent on this errand and they always found time to cut a goodly supply of "slippery elm" bark to chew, which, by the way, when thrown about the room would make a modern paperwad resemble a ten cent store diamond. How many a worthy pedagogue turned quickly to face his pupils only to find an eye plastered shut with a great ball of this "gum."

Icicles that had hung securely from the eaves often found themselves uncomfortably warm, nestling against the neck of some rosy-cheeked school girl.

Teachers, for the most part, were firm believers in "spare the rod and spoil the child", and the birch rod blistered many a recalcitrant pupil while many lessons were "taught to the tune of a hickory stick" toughened in the coals of the school fire. Punishments for misdemeanors were varied, but the greatest conceivable punishment then was the practice of

making boys and girls sit together. I remember my mother telling how shamed one was and embarrassed if that was the punishment meted out to you.. Parents used to pay close attention to the deportment side of the gradecard. If Dad found out that the teacher had applied the paddle, son got another such treatment at home only a little harder and just maybe went to bed without any supper! Times have really changed!

When the pail ot water arrived from the spring, one child was designated to pass the water. Frankie Eckert Rees told that Ella McCormick, who attended Holcomb School, but not Mt. Prospect, was chosen to pass the water because she did it so quickly and so quietly. A large tincup was filled and given to the nearest pupil who, after satisfying his thirst, passed it on to the next and so on until the cup was empty, when it was refilled. Any water remaining in the cup after the last pupil had received his drink was returned to the pail. No wonder epidemics were frequent!

Wood for heating was chopped by the older boys, carried in by the younger children, and placed in a mammoth box near the fire.

During a term when discipline was poor, the older boys found the windows most desirable as an entrance, and exit was made the same way. A small child, occupying a seat especially desired by an older boy, was lifted bodily and moved elsewhere.

One of the commonest forms of enjoyment was the old-fashioned spelling bee. On the designated night, people would gather from miles around until the school house was packed. Young and old alike joined in the bee. Sides were chosen, and parties appointed to keep tally. Sometimes the whole school would journey miles to a neighboring district, cosily packed into a roomy bobsled, and merriment was rife during the drive. Often, the driver would, in a spirit of mischief, drive over a stump and the entire load landed in the softness of a huge snowdrift. Nobody really minded despite the shrieks, and after carefully brushing the snow from their garments, and righting the sled, they proceded happily on their way.

It didn't really matter if you didn't have a new dress for each gathering, as everyone wore homespun. Even at this early date Old Prospect proved to be a winner: her spellers always outspelling those of other schools. Danny Stahl was one of the champion spellers.

Another interscholastic feature of the old days was debating. Two leaders were selected who in turn picked their co-debaters, and the "fight was on," the questions debated ranging from the comparative usefulness of boys and girls to momentous national and international problems of the day. Critics were appointed and at the close of the argument, they criticized the debaters noting all grammatical errors, mispronunciations, etc.

Many attended school only when it was too wet to work on the farm or when there was nothing to do. Some families spoke only German in the home and that made school doubly difficult for the child.

The school board would not hire a teacher who smoked or used tobacco in any form or used liquor. Teachers were looked up to and respected in the community.

And so the boys and girls of Prospect School studied, played and cut up in much the same manner as the boys and girls of today. Perhaps some still small voice from within spurred them on to greater efforts. Perhaps something whispered to them the fact thatthey were writing the opening chapters on a proud institution. At any rate, Prospect School was known for miles around as the "banner country school."

LOCAL SCHOOL ALWAYS A PRODUCER OF PEDAGOGUES

The first teachers were Mr. Firk, Jane Rennels, Elizabeth Rees, Lyman Merrick, John Hellison, Harrison Hill, James Adams, W.B. Callighan, Mrs. Caroline (Lamb) Stahl who taught during the outbreak of the Civil War, Frank M. Ginn, Mary Fanning, George Lincoln, Edward T. Hayes, George VanSickle, Allen Fritz, who rode to school on horseback every day from two miles east of Rollersville, Donna Jennings, Henry Baker Brown, a local boy who later founded Valparaiso University, Frank E. Palmer, Mary E. Farming, Emaline Farming, Roxy McFaren, I.N. VanTassel , Frank Folks, Nancy Bierly Plantz who married a Bradner man and lived here, (more of her later) W.C. Showalter. Many of these names appeared on Prospect roll book as pupils before they were entered as instructors, while countless others went out to service in neighboring schools. An Advocate article, Jan. 22, 1926, states: "Now boys and girls in the years that are to come when asked what has been your community's gift to the world, you may point to Professor Henry Baker Brown, founder of Valparaiso University, as a Bradner product with a definite knowledge that this is true."

OLD LOG CABIN REPLACED

Meanwhile, the little community continued to grow until the little log building, no longer able to fill the needs, was replaced by a single story frame one, located on the same corner only nearer the road, probably in the late forties or early fifties. Painted white, it was one of which the pupils were justly proud. One account relates that school was held in the little log church. Anna Kirk's painting shows the log church and the white frame school. She was born 1857.

OLD PROSPECT GIVES OF HER BEST TO FIGHT FOR THE UNION

"Bring the good old bugle, boys, we'll sing another song;
Sing it with a spirit that will move the world along;
Sing it as we used to sing it--sixty thousand strong--
While we are marching through Georgia."

"When in '61 the Union called forth her stalwart sons to keep the Stars and Stripes waving, Old Prospect sent forth her strongest and bravest to take their place in the army that fought not to enslave, but to free; not simply for our land, but as a proclamation to every land and race of the God-given principle of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Boys in Blue went forth to prove to the world that a government founded upon the principles of justice and right must endure." Among the Civil War veterans that claimed Old Prospect as their school were Simon Edmonds, Chas. Caldwell, John Leary, Immanuel Plantz, Sam Plantz, Phillip Hathaway, Frank Plantz, Sylvester Plantz, Jacob Stahl, Captain Elisha Biggerstaff, Chauncey Walters, Mike Walters, Charles Stanton, Clate Everett, Perry Walters, Servetus Edmonds, John Stahl, John Weller, C.W.Everett and countless others. A list of veterans buried in Chestnut Ridge is listed with the American Legion.

And when at last peace came, fate decreed that a few Prospect sons should not return. Immanuel Plantz died fighting bravely on the battlefield at Shilo; Simon Edmonds and Perry Walters were victims of starvation at Andersonville prison; Servetus Edmonds died in prison in Wheeling, West Virginia.

PROSPECT CELEBRITIES

Celebrities of Prospect School were Henry Baker Brown, founder and for many years head of Valparaiso, Indiana, University, who not only attended school but also taught at Prospect, Jacob Stahl, County Commissioner; M.M. Fowler, Treasurer; D. B. Brown, famous Florida physician; T.H. Bierly and Jesse Stephens, well-known and successful attorneys at law to name just a few.

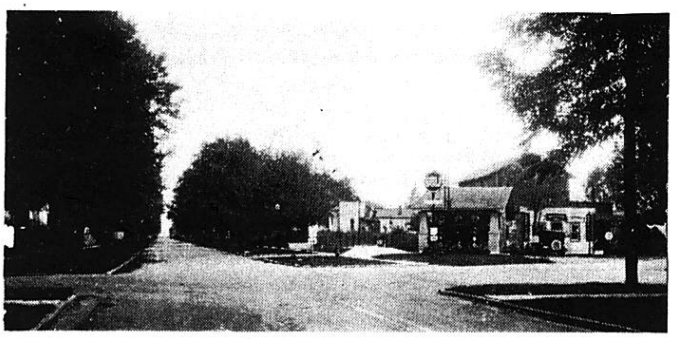
And still the community continued to grow and the little old frame building could no longer accommodate the children. About 1864, the building was moved across the street back of the log church which was being dismantled as its successor had been erected farther east along Caldwell. A second story was added for the upper grades.

In about a year, however, from the time the building was moved, it was pronounced unsafe and many were certain it was going to collapse. On each side of the building were placed poles to serve as props to hold the building in place. These props were shortly carted away by the pupils.The school house did not fall down. It was used and continued to be used as a school for fourteen more years, and continued to stand on that spot and weathered the storms for more than threescore years, being used as a house for many years, occupied by Mrs. Rebecca Stahl Hill as the November 27, 1896 Advocate states. Later, it was a glove factory, and still later purchased by Wm. Heckart for his machine shop, it continued to stand until it met its fate at the hands of progress about the late twenties, the spot now being occupied by the Gulf filling station.

In the year 1871, the westward movement seized the country, and from the doorway of the schoolhouse, the Prospect boys and girls could see, a little to the northward, countless trains of covered wagons moving ever westward over Ohio's fertile plains toward the land of supposed opportunity, bearing such slogans as "Hoe for Kansas," "Idaho or Bust," and "We're bound for Oregon." Games were forgotten, and ball bats lay untouched, while youthful eyes longingly followed the course of the immigrant wagons, and youthful hearts beat high with thoughts of adventure in a far-off land of wealth and plenty.

In the meantime, in 1867, the Columbus, Hocking Valley and Toledo Railway was conceived to remedy delays in travel between Cincinnati and Toledo, via the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, and the Cleveland & Toledo Railroads. It was resolved to continue the Columbus & Hocking Valley Railroad then in operation, northward. By December 13 that year the line was surveyed from Toledo, via New Rochester, Freeport, West Millgrove, Fostoria, Upper Sandusky, Marion to Columbus, but was not adopted. Two years later, the "West Line" was surveyed through Bowling Green and Marysville, while the "East Line" was re-surveyed almost over the route of the 1867 survey, and the Toledo Council accepted this eastern survey. The "West Line" did not go through, but the "East Line" builders pushed forward their enterprise, and on December 5, 1876, saw the road completed.

The progress of the railroad was eagerly watched by everyone along the line, and especially as, under the untiring efforts of the trackmen, two shining ribbons of steel were fast approaching little old Prospect, while day by day the dream of all pioneer settlers came nearer and nearer to realization--they would see a real honest-to-goodness train. As the steel road crept nearer, over the entire community rested a spirit of suppressed excitement, and when, in the fall of '76 the line found in Prospect a termination, and a freight car bearing steel rails for the completion of the road crept into the community, the day was a great one in local history. Bradner has always been famous for its remarkable "feeds." Out of town lodges



N. Main & Caldwell/old school behind

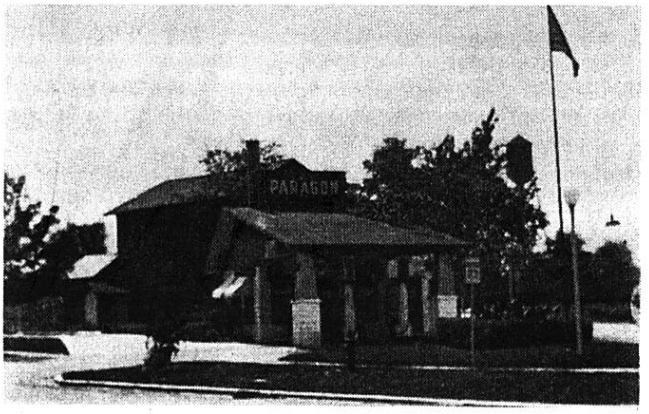
and other organizations have always lauded the old home town for this particular feature, but her record began when, with the coming of the first train,--albeit only a freight--Prospect pioneers gathered from miles around to express to the trackmen a little of the joy which was theirs at the arrival of the "wonder of pioneer days."

"There is no record of any farmer killing the "fatted calf" for the occasion, but it is well-known that into those baskets went the biggest and best products of the poultry yard. This was the only point along the line, according to the trackmen, where such a welcome was afforded, and right there that day started the fame of the little community as the home of superior cooks and hospitality, as the trackmen told their families, and all along the line as they stopped at the taverns and saloons and hotels."

But what of the school on this day of days? The teacher, Nancy Bierly (later Mrs. Peter Plantz) saw with able foresight that such an opportunity would come only once in the lifetime of her pupils. Consequently, school was dismissed for the occasion, journeying down to the tracks to view the miracle--a real train, a sight that only a favored few, in time, could boast in later years to their grandchildren. The puffing little locomotive bore little resemblance to the beautiful and powerful successors that flourished, and then, within our own time, almost became passe, but now in this present era of the 70's are making a comeback in AMTRAK. But to the little Prospect pupils--staring wide-eyed and wondering--every dream had been realized and with its coming, life seemed, indeed, complete. On January 10, 1877, the first through-passenger train over that road rolled through Bradner enroute to Columbus. I wonder if the school had another holiday.

BRADNER COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTS FIRST "LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE"

Shortly after the coming of the railroad, the name of Bradner was generally adopted, and the school soon accepted the same name. To dwell on the rapid expansion of the little



2-story frame school back of Paragon Station

village at this time would be too great a digression, but we must state that the "future great" had already taken on the semblance of a village and the local school again found the school building inadequate.

As a result, Bradner residents erected their first "little red schoolhouse," in 1879. The new building was a red brick structure located at the southwest corner of East and Lightner. John Stephens, William Hartman and A. Earl were the first Board of Education called Directors. John Stephens was elected clerk.

Among the teachers wielding the birch rod in the brick building were Helen Canfield Ganzer, Alice Canfield, Nancy Bierly for one summer term, J. Munsel, L.C. Merchant, Clara Mahoney, Alma Adams, John L. Shipley, Nora Peoples, Hannah Mason, Rena Huffman (Mrs. J.P. Evans), Nellie C. Hyter (Mrs. A.A.Stump), M.M. Fowler, Gilbert H. Benton, Mattie Mahoney, Glennie Leary, Elmer Conklin, J.E. Ladd who was a teacher five years, Bertha Brooks, Mary B. Boyd, Ella Fox, Fred H. Bowers, Belle Cooke, Gussie James (Mrs. T.B. Daily).

In 1881 a fence was built around the school yard. In 1883 the present district was founded and the school term was changed to eight months. In 1885 a well was dug in the school yard; in 1887 M.M. Fowler suspended a number of students who had not prepared their lessons as per rule of said teacher, and the school board upheld him in this.

By 1888 the school had grown so they rented a store building that had been a saloon and fitted it for a school room for the primary grades, making two rooms.

Contract Between School Board and Teacher:
For the year commencing October 6th, 1890, this memorandum of agreement made and entered into this third day of May, 1890, between J.E. Ladd, a teacher of the one part and the Board of Education of Bradner School district, Wood County, Ohio, of the second part (witnesseth) that said J.E. Ladd agrees to teach the upper or high school in Said District at two dollars and fifty cents per day the terms agreed upon by Said Board of Education providing satisfaction be given by Said Teacher. It is further understood and agreed that Said Teacher to have exclusive control of all School Property and school grounds outside of Lower or Intermediate rooms and to be held to pay any and all damages that may acrue to any of Said Property while under his control. He to be held responsible from half past eight o'clock a.m. until four o'clock p.m. of each day of school, reasonable wear and tear and casualties by Fire and Storms excepted.

Signed
J.E. Ladd
O.J. Mitchell,Pres.,
John Hutchinson, Clerk,
Abram Hyter.

There were two other contracts: one between the Board and Bertha Brooks to teach Intermediate School at $1.50 per day and responsible for all property in her room; the other between the Board and Mary Boyd to teach Primary School at $1.50 per day and responsible for all property in her room.

John Nash, one of the few negro families who have lived in Bradner, received ten dollars for cleaning the school to get it ready for the fall term.

Two brooms cost fifty cents; six hundred feet of Oak Stringers for sidewalk cost $9.60; stove pipe, eighty cents; stove, three dollars; bolts to repair seats cost fifty cents. The School Board members themselves put down the seats in the rooms and each received $2.00.

Red brick school with fence & pump - East & Lightner

In 1891 a frame building was erected south of the red brick for the primary school. This building is used as a dwelling now. In this year, also, J. E. Ladd arranged and put into effect the first definite Course of Study and a manual was adopted, using the following books: McGuffey's Eclectic Readers, Rays Arithmetic, Wentworth Arithmetic, Stoddards Intellectual Speller, Harvey's Grammar, Eclectic Elementary Geography, Harvey's History of Ohio, Eclectic Primary U.S. History, Eclectic New U.S. History; Montgomery's Leading Facts of American History, Pathfinder Series by Ginn, Child's Health Primer No.1 and Young People's Physiology No. 2. May this writer digress for a bit and eulogize J.E. Ladd? He served as Prosecuting Attorney of Wood County for several years, but he never forgot "this old Bradner town." One Junior Class of BHS was left on the eve of the most impressive social function of the whole year--the spring banquet--without a speaker. It was to Mr. Ladd they appealed--nor were they disappointed. And when on Decoration Day Bradner community went forth to decorate the graves of her departed heroes, it was with surety that somewhere along the line she would come face to face with the friendly, smiling countenance of "neighbor Jont Ladd."

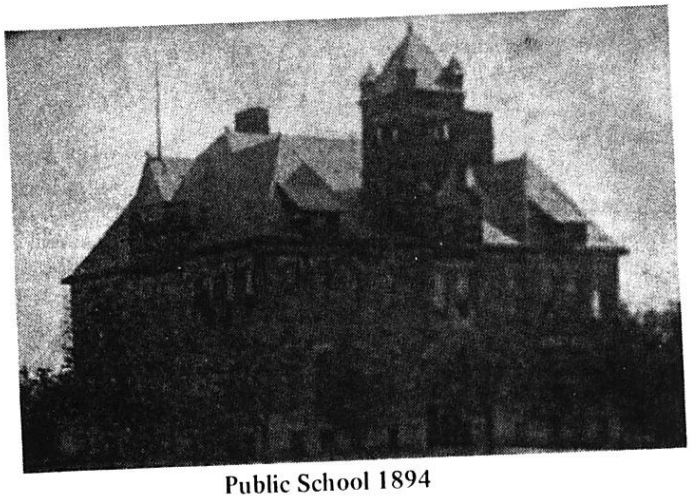
The crowded rooms showed that a new house was needed, and, accordingly on November 6, 1891, an order was drawn to purchase ground in Bell's Grove addition from S.T. Bell for $224.00 at 6% interest.

May I digress again and add that Beers states that a frame building was erected in 1882 in District No.1? Ella Schroyer said there was another building put up besides the little house at the south. Our school board minutes, while starting with 1876, leave much to the imagination until about year 1890.

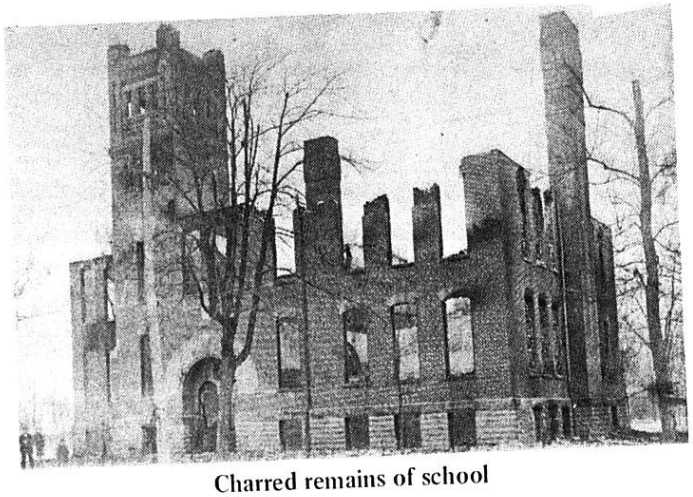
On April 1, 1893, an election was held to build a new school building at the cost of $10,000. 114 votes were cast with 79 for and 35 against. They decided to sell the old school building, and John Hosey bid it in at $500. This little red schoolhouse served the community well, first as a school, then a church-the Presbyterian Church in 1895. The YMCA rented the second story. It later became a canvas glove factory, run by Clem Broyles and Fred Stahl, then in 1924 Floyd Smith bought it from Charles Riley and ran the Ideal Hatchery there for years. At the present time it is an apartment house.

On April 10, the following were chosen to serve on the Board of Education during the building of the new school: J.F. Hartman, President; J.J. Jennings, Clerk; M.O. Ladd, Treasurer; and M.M. Fowler, E.A. James, J. Harmon Westerfield, and D. Edmonds. The frame building was sold to Eli T. Holcomb for $150.

There was a money panic in the summer of 1893 and a



Public School 1894



Charred remains of school

general tightening of the money belts all over the nation. Bonds had been offered for sale and the bids had been rejected. They were offered again and there were no takers. Questions had been raised and some doubts existed as to the legality of proceedings and records, so under Special Act of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, the Board re-did everything and resolutions were passed concerning each step taken on July 10, 1893. Bonds were again offered for sale. No bids had been received by September 1, so the Board decided to let the bonds "lay over" until January.

On June 17, 1893, F. H. Bowers was hired as Principal for $50.00 per month; Belle Cooke as Secondary teacher and Gussie James as Primary, each for $30.00 per month. That same meeting D. Edmonds was appointed to notify the Committee On Arrangements for the Fourth of July Celebration that the Board would not allow the occupancy of the school grounds for such a picnic, and E.A. James was appointed to paint and erect signs on each of the four corners: SCHOOL GROUNDS: NO TRESPASSING UNDER PENALTY.

November 20, 1893, Dr. J. E. Furste was reimbursed $19.55 for vaccinating the school children. School was still held in the red brick building.

The bonds were offered twice in February 1894 and on the 16th the bid of Spitzer & Co. of Toledo, $10,150, was accepted. W.L. Kramer of Findlay, Ohio, was secured as architect, and Jas. T. Ewing of Fostoria as contractor. The contract price was $10,000. The heating and ventilating contract was awarded to Isaac D. Smead for $1,680. In addition to Ewing's contract, the Board agreed to pay him $350.00 to build stone arches instead of brick ones over the doors and windows.

During the construction of the building the Board insured it against fire, lightening and cyclones for $7,000. In addition to the above expense, the Board paid $100.00 to get the foundation on rock. $40.00 was deducted from the contract for faulty work in plastering.

The workmen lived in tents pitched on the vacant lot on West Crocker where Coveney's Store or Mergenthaler apartments stand.

After the erection of the building, the Board purchased an acre of ground on the east side for $400. A well was drilled in April, 1894.

The first term of school opened in October, 1894, with F.H. Bowers, principal; Belle Cooke, grammar room; Gertrude Potter, intermediate; and Sarah Smith, primary, as teachers. During the year Gertrude Potter resigned and Maggie Stephens was hired. During the year 1895, ill health compelled Miss Stephens to resign and Jennie Kirk was employed on February 22 to finish the term. Frank Coveney remembers that the students resented her hard-handed ways and made up all kinds of nasty poetry about her. Jennie, who later became Mrs. H.E. Hall, wife of the County Superintendent of Schools, was a pupil in the school at the time she was hired and was one of three graduates of 1896, the other two being May Miller (Mrs. Lemmer), and Laura Sloyer (Mrs. Claude Harpster).

For years Bradner School was considered one of the best in the County and was known far and wide, continuing the name Banner School earned back in log cabin days.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

This writer believes this material should be recorded. If you find it leaves you cold, just skip over it.

The District as set up in the Township should have contained all of Sections one and two, and eleven and twelve of Montgomery Township. All but the lands of J.D. Hathaway and Wm. Mason in Section one. The southwest corner of Section eleven has been changed backward and forward several times, sometimes being in the Freeport School District and sometimes in Bradner. The District as it existed for several years prior to April 27, 1896, contained all the territory of Section one except Mason and Hathaway; all of Section two; all of Section eleven; except forty acres at the southwest corner, known as the Hoiles farm; and all of Section twelve.

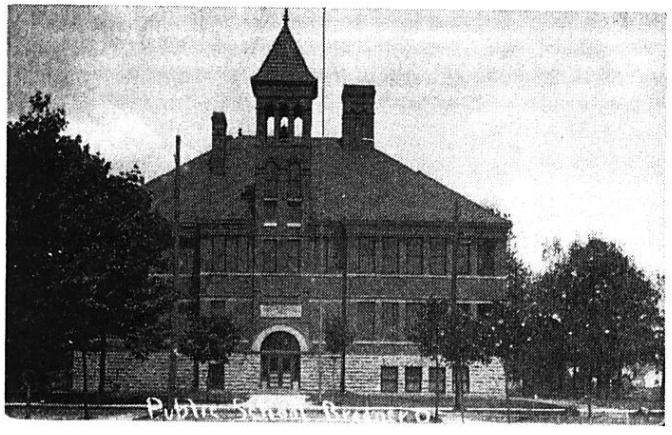
By act of the legislature, passed April 27, 1896, there was added to the territory as follows: On the north, beginning at the east line of land owned by the estate of D. Kimble, a strip of 80 rods wide and running 1 5/8 miles west, taking in the families of J.J. Munsel, Wm. Bell and James Shepler and other vacant land, and on the west, a strip 80 rods wide from the north line of the district to the north line of Freeport special district, taking in the families of Martin Eckert, Daniel Fralick, Wm. Dern, Frank Fairbanks, George Perry and the family in the old Perry house. Also a strip a half mile wide on the east in Sandusky County, beginning at the south line of D.Stahl's land and running one mile north, taking in the land of D. Stahl 80 acres, L. Stackhouse 40 acres, and the W.A. Gregg homestead still north of the mile limit 40 acres.

The district, as of November 27, 1896, contained 3,339 acres as follows: 540 acres of Section one, all of Section two, 160 acres of Section three, 80 acres of Section ten, 600 acres of Section eleven, and all of Section twelve Montgomery Township; and 80 acres of Section thirty-six, 160 acres of Section thirty-five and 40 acres of Section thirty-four, Freedom Township; also 200 acres of Section six and 160 acres Section 7 Scott Township in Sandusky County.

I also add that all the residents within the territory added by the Act of April 27, 1896, except three, signed a petition asking our representative to secure the passage of the Act.

Five teachers were employed the next term, 1896-97: Wm. M. Coon, Superintendent; Catherine Boyd, Prinicpal; Belle Cooke, Grammar School (7th and 8th Grades); Cora Hamilton, Intermediate; Sarah Smith, Primary; and G. W. Plantz, janitor and Truant Officer. Because of the second boom in the oil business, the attendance mushroomed and the auditorium had to be used as a classroom. School library rules were adopted by the Board of Education for Bradner Public School Library.

In the Spring of 1897 five teachers plusthe superintendent were hired. This year B.O. Bistline joined the staff as Superintendent, and second Primary teacher was added. A wash bowl and stand and towels were purchased, and a suitable place was found for the pupils to wash their hands. A stone walk replaced the board walk. The furnace was repaired, and a wire fence was added on the west, north, and east of the grounds.



1903 School Bldg.

GROWING PAINS AGAIN

In 1900 the fourth grade was placed in the upper room of the old red brick school building which was used as the Presbyterian Church. Jennie Kirk was again hired to teach this group. The fifth and sixth grades were combined in the new building. On April 21, 1902, the Board considered a three-room addition, and in the May election fifty voted for and twenty-seven against, and plans were made to vacate the old school house once again.

For nine happy years the beautiful school echoed to the tread of boys and girls. Many visitors from far and wide came to observe. A superior Course of Study was offered.

Ninth arithmetic, physical geography, history, grammar, physiology, civics, algebra; tenth general history, algebra, higher arithmetic, rhetoric, composition; eleventh, geometry, physics, literature, Latin; twelfth, Caesar, botany, review arithmetic, grammar, U.S. history, physiology. None was promoted until he had performed the rhetorical work of the grade.

A great interest in athletics found Bradner students good winners as well as good losers. The campus at the back of the building was low and during the winter afforded a super skating rink. The boys spent recess skating and pulling girls on sleds.

Way up in the darkest and spookiest corner of the library old "Uncle Remus", the school skeleton, stood guard. What a host of school day pranks and capers those cavernous eyes were witness to, but luckily for some people, they kept their secrets. What a pal he was to the boys. The bone boy was frequently adorned with some girl's mitten, scarf or hat.

FLAMES DESTROY BEAUTIFUL NEW BUILDING

On Monday evening, January 12, 1903, a bitter cold night, Bradner community was startled by the cry of "FIRE!"

Quoting the Advocate, Friday, January 16, 1903: "On Monday after supper, Wm. Plantz, the janitor, as was his custom, went to the school to make a tour of inspection. Upon opening the doors he was greeted with the smell of smoke. He quickly ran into the building and was almost overcome by smoke. He sent in the alarm by phone, and the fire department and citizens responded quickly.

Some difficulty was experienced in getting water from the hydrants. Two were broken in an attempt to turn the water on. However, the fire had such headway that, according to the opinion of Chief Sloan, no amount of water could have saved it.

The fire...originated from the furnace overheating, working its way up the air shafts and between the flooring, and was apparently burning beneath the floors on the entire east side when the fire department arrived.

The thermometer was hugging zero, but the firemen worked bravely until all hope of saving it was gone.

The building was built in 1894 at a cost of about $15,000. Since that time a number of improvements have been added which would run the cost up to nearly $17,000. It was insured for $10,000, of which $1,100 was on the contents. The fine library of 300 volumes was destroyed as were all the books of the pupils.

No one is to blame, nor responsible for the deplorable loss, further than that the construction and surroundings of the furnace may have been at fault.

School will commence again in rooms provided over town as soon as new books arrive.

From the ashes a new school will arise, perhaps on the same plans as this. As yet no definite plans have been decided on by the board."

From Opal's writing: "Long after the intervening walls had fallen, pupils could see the old school clock, still clinging to its position on the assembly wall, its pendulum swinging to and fro until finally reached and destroyed by flames. Old Uncle Remus also perished. No more would his hideous presence urge the boys on to mischief; no more would his ghastly grinning countenance terrify the girls.

As long as it was possible to enter the building, the silvery notes of the school bell filled the night air, each tone sounding as a knell in the hearts of those who had so often obeyed its summons. And when the flames swept to the doorway and the bell fell from its lofty tower with a crash and one last dong, many eyes were wet. Everyone mourned the destruction."

To add a bit of human interest: Ollie Blackman (Mrs. Floyd Reese later) was studying her Latin lesson when the news reached her. She felt bad about the school, but pushed her Latin book aside, delighted she would not have to study the lesson for the next day. Jessie Daily (Mrs. Walter Hanley) was in the first grade and had gone to bed. Her parents did not waken her. At the breakfast table Tuesday morning, her mother and grandmother, (who had come to stay while the men folk helped at the fire), kept urging her to look out the pantry window at her school. She couldn't understand why make such a big deal of looking at it. She would soon be there.

Finally, to keep the peace, she went to the pantry and looked. Oh! the feeling of loss and panic and desolation and fear that came over her as she gazed in horror at the charred walls and smoking ruins. Jessie lived on the southwest corner of Caldwell and Evans, and the back of the house faced the school yard. Lillie McNulty (Mrs. Gil Bell) who lived on E. Crocker at the end of Stahl Street could see the flames and hear the mournful tolling of the bell. She was eleven years old at the time. She could never forget the eerie feeling as the bell tolled and then crashed and the final dong as it rolled over. Jessie Daily was bundled up and taken over to see, but she was set down in Huffman's yard (where Rev. Wiegman lives now) on lot No.251. The disagreeable phases of school life were forgotten as the students mourned, with one accord, the destruction.

On Wednesday evening, January 15th, the Board met at the Town Hall, and you have already guessed the topic of conversation: get seats for the old school house; settle for loss of school; purchase books to replace students' books; discussion of defect in heating apparatus; wreck the old building; clear material, piling for use what could be used again; (all the kids had jobs cleaning bricks and stacking them); appoint a committee to visit Findlay, Payne, and Cygnet to investigate school house construction; to notify architect that the Board will consider plans for a new building on February 21, at 9 a.m.

Jessie Daily Hanley related that the lower grades met in the old brick school and the upper grades in the Town Hall. The little fellows were jealous of the big kids who had orange crates for desks and got to go to a great big building. B.O. Bistline, the superintendent, made arrangements quickly and students studied at home and went to the appointed buildings to recite lessons.

Once underway, the constructionof the new building went on rapidly on the same site at a cost of $22,164.25 was more commodius than the one that burned and at that time was one of the finest in the State of Ohio. The Board of Education in service during its construction were J.H. Westerfield, H.C. Ahlf, J.C. Hartman, A.W. Rees, A.A. Stump, M.M. Fowler, and J.H. Stephens. G.W. Plantz was the first janitor in the new building and B.O. Bistline again headed the local school when the first term opened in the fall of 1904.

PERIOD FOLLOWING ERECTION OF 1903 EDIFICE MARKED BY PROGRESS

On September 2, the completion of the school was celebrated by a picnic and a program under the auspices of the local WRC. A large flag was presented to the school by the Corps and a smaller flag to each room. A flagpole had been purchased from National Supply Hardware for $19.85 and erected in front of the building.

We would sing the praises here of "Bobby" Bistline, who became Probate Judge of Wood County. "A teacher par excellence, the mathematical instruction of Mr. Bistline was a gesture which placed B.H.S. pupils on a superior plane and enabled them to cope more successfully with the trying situations of the business world. When Bradner students entered the list of would-be teachers and submitted their greatly harrowed minds to the dreaded 'teachers' exam, the excellency of "Bobby's" instruction was reflected in their work. Francis Eckert Rees said that "traveling by horse and buggy, Mr. Bistline took her to Bowling Green to take the teacher exam. They left Bradner very early in the morning in order to get there in plenty of time.

In February, 1905, there were heating problems due to the Calvin Heat Indicator Company's delay in completing installation. The Board sent a resolution to the Prosecuting Attorney stating that "this has created a health hazard and a dangerous situation because of the variable uncontrollable temperatures."

In hiring of teachers in the spring, Mrs. Olive E. Wood was rehired at the same salary $45.00 per month, Miss Blanche Hall at the same salary, and Miss Iva Marstellar at $40.00 per month. On May 12 the Board moved an increase of $5.00 per month for each teacher because the three teachers had refused the salary offered. Sounds like 1976!

Through the years, exhibits were entered each year in the Wood County Fair and each entrant looked forward to the day off to attend and look over what each had entered. Prizes taken at the Fair were turned back in to the school to help build the library. A row of bookcases had been built along the library wall. Plans were devised for keeping the shelves filled, and although the library was small, it contained some of the world's finest.

Miss Mabelle Heberling (Mrs. Wm. VanHorn) was hired starting October 9.

In September, 1907, concrete floors replaced the board floors in the restroom areas.

On April 10, 1908, the State Inspector of Public Buildings ordered the Board to install fire escapes. At election held May 8, the people turned down the bond issue 23 to 40 for the next school term.

At the special election in June the issue was once again lost, 39 to 53. On August 29 the Chief Inspector of workshops and factories ordered specific changes in the building and spelled out exactly what had to be done to comply with the improvements to be completed on or about the first Monday in September. In addition to fire escapes, a steel ceiling over the furnace had to be installed and all inflammable material be removed from the basement. Miss Anna Christian (Mrs. Wm. Bryan) joined the staff at $50.00. H. C. Knowles succeeded Mr. Bistline in '09. Then E.I.F. Williams in 1910. In the fall of 1910 the State School Commission ordered change in the high school curriculum from four years to three years to conform with standards of Second Grade Schools. Seniors had to attend Fostoria to graduate from a First Grade School. From this time on every effort was spent in raising the standards to become a First Grade School. Lura Bell joined the staff. This fall a telephone was installed.

The land of William Dierksheide being the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 34, Freedom Township, was transferred to the Freedom Twp. School District.

In 1911, Miss Frances Eckert was hired for 3rd and 4th grades. Library books, lab equipment, fire extinguishers, fire gong that could be rung from each floor were added.

In 1913, Iris Rowe (Mrs. Chas. Foster) was hired. In 1914, J. Frank Hoffman was hired, more lab apparatus, more library books were ordered and in March 1915 all ordered had arrived.

RED LETTER DAY

On March 8, 1915, Bradner High School became a high school of the First Grade.

Enid Mason (Mrs. Clarence Mulkin) and Ralph Solether started that fall. Six ten foot recitation benches with tablet arms were added to the fron t of the big study hall. Remember the orange that splattered against the front board? In a special "conclave" held after school in the laboratory no one knew who did it! If you ask now, probably all could tell. Strange,

In the name and by the Authority of the

THE STATE OF OHIO

OFFICE OF

Superintendent of Public Instruction

By virtue of the authority vested in the Superintendent of Public Instruction by the Statutes of the State of Ohio, I do hereby certify that the board of education of the Bradner Village *School District in the County of* Wood *and State of Ohio, is maintaining a High School of the*

First Grade

isn't it? Remember the eraser that sailed across the assembly room just before dismissal? How we sat and sat and sat waiting for the culprit to own up, until one young lady who had to get to work at a certain time, or possibly lose her job, picked up the eraser and placed it on the board and all applauded!

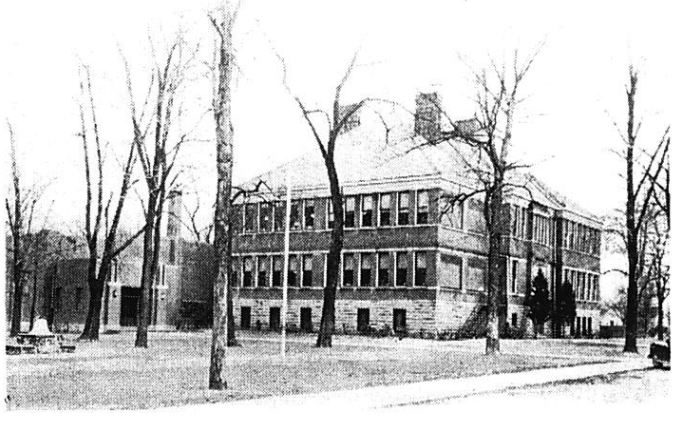
The student body's participation in athletics adorned the rooms with a host of silver loving cups, trophies of victories, hard fought and won. Many ribbons and beautiful medals and letters are still proudly cherished by individual winners. The motto on the track and with the ball has ever been "a fair show and a square deal," and although a frequent winner, the school proved a good loser as well.

Another characteristic of school life in the bygone days was the annual color rush between the upper classmen--plague of the professor in charge--but source of joy to the participant. To the Seniors as the upper classmen belonged the privilege of "springing their colors," which was done by stealing a march on the Junior Class (if possible) and displaying their colors in a conspicuous place at the most unexpected time. This was a signal for the opponents to dislodge the colors and fly their own instead. The goal was to keep the trophy flying from sunrise to sunrise, and many a hot contest was waged accordingly only to be interrupted at the most crucial time by those in authority.

Among the instructors whose efforts contributed to the advancement of school were B. O. Bistline, Ray Westerfield, Sarah Smith, Blanche Hall, Henryette Babione, Mary Straman, Grace Fourney, Mabel Heberling, Eva Zingg, Olive Wood, Grace Guerney, Grace Howerstock, Lulu Smith, Emilie Ziegler, Anna Christian, Esther Guernsey, M.M. Fowler, H.C. Knowles, Mamie Bonawit, Amy Layman, Jessie Morgan, E.I. F. Williams, Blanche McDowell, T. J. Ault, Margaret Indelkopf, Lura Bell, Palmer Huffman, Frances Eckert, Mary Braddock, Blanche Ledinsky, Ila Simmons, C.W. Jarvis, Lucy Hildebrant, Bertha Hansen, Maude Hiser, C.H. Brisbane, Ottie Wineland, C.M. Meek, Mabel C. Powers, Dora DeVerna, Luella Hutchinson, Iris Rowe, Lena Langell, C.C. Robertson, J. Frank Hoffman, Grace McLaughlin, Fern Davidson, Elinor Shaw, Ralph Solether, Enid Mason, Ruth Wertz, Beatrice Laichot, Fred I. Lust, Augusta Leedom, Estella Capp, J.A. Hutchinson, Angie Shoemaker, Glada Hutton, W.C. Hanson, Leila Hebler, C.C. Bigelow, Mary Kerr, Vera Ingle, L.C. Clark, Walter Langell, Florence Sellers, Ruth Householder, Hazel Griffin, Leila Force, Cora Goetz, Mabel Christian, Charles Esselbaugh, L.T. Stratton, Helen Fortney, Imogene Cameron, Harry Brueggemeier, A.W. Andrews, Mr. Cooper.

In 1917, the schools changed from the District Supervisors to the Wood County Board of Education. In 1919, laboratory storage cupboards were added. 1919-1920 was a horrible year according to one man, it took away man's booze and gave the vote to women.

In Feb. 1930 American Glycerine Co. to pay for removing



1936 School Bldg. with gym

First Girls Basketball Team - 1909-10

tower from school and cementing cracks.

1931 Married women barred from teaching and contract terminates immediately upon marriage.

The library was made by removing the partition in the cloakroom between the lab and the north east room.

In 1936 the auditorium-gymnasium was completed.

In the early thirties came the great Depression. Fathers were out of work. Families went on relief. A blot settled on our school--cross burnings!! An auditorium-gymnasium-stage was added to the rear and west.

In the 40's war clouds again called out our 18 year olds to the draft. School was hard to keep. The boys' minds were not on studying. A number of our teachers were drafted.

TEACHERS

1938-Wm. Malehorn, Supt., C.R. Croll, Prin., W. Zinser, H.Blessing, Edith Dixon, Paul Sheffer.
1939-Chester Messmore, Supt., C.R.Croll, H. Blessing, Paul Sheffer, Helen Smith, W.Zinser.
1940-Mr. Messmore, W.Zinser, Dale Herbert, H.Blessing, Helen Smith, Paul Sheffer.
1941-C. Messmore, W. Zinser, H. Blessing, H. Smith, Grace Moore, W. Gulghum, P. Sheffer.
1942-W.Zinser, Cecil Stump, H. Blessing, Delphine Eichel, Al Alvarez, Geo. Janson, P. Sheffer.
1943-W. Zinser, A. Alvarez, H. Keller, D. Eichel, Vivian Eberle.
1946-Howell Jones, Leona Fisher, H. Keller, Owen Shirk, Berniece Dennis.
1947-48-Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Snyder, Robert Stevens, Helen Bates, Trella Niswander, Alma Leedom, Marie Erven, Bill Isling.
1949-Gene Snyder, Janet Snyder, H. Bates, A. Leedom, Miss Clinton, Mr. Sidebotham, Joe Sproul.
1951-R.B. Sunderman, J. Sproul, W.C. Insley, W.R. Rice, H. Cribbs, Mrs. Chadwick, Marilyn Moore.

BRADNER LOSES CHARTER

The Class of 1950-1951 was the last class to bear the name Bradner High School on the diploma. The members of this class were Richard Fairbanks, President; Mary Jo Krawetzke, Vice-President; Durwood Fredricks, Secretary; Joyce Molnar, Reporter; Emil Dean, Treasurer; Michael Tahy, Noel (Bud) Horan, Bruce Markel, Hermon Rath. Ila Jean Rentz, James (Ted) Sawyer, R. B. Sunderman, Superintendent.

An attitude of "doing it the cheapest way," or "we'll make do," or "we'll get by," or "we have all we can take care of now," had grown over the years. There had been a steady erosion of territory, a turning-down-offers to expand the school territory; the loss of the bank that possibly could have been remedied earlier; then the cross burnings; then Bradner School District almost got wiped off the map forever.

In 1930, an article in the Advocate, July 4, after the census figures were made available states that Bradner population was the 7th in the County. Bradner has always been the largest village in Montgomery Township, and still is.

We would like to compare the Bradner School District in 1950-1951 with the map on the inside back cover. Statistics were not available

The blow stunned the townspeople. It just couldn't happen! But the handwriting had been on the wall for some time, and the ones in charge failed to read, or took one of the above attitudes. This did not creep up without several warnings. But it had happened and it was useless to lament the sad words, "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: it might have been!"

A feeling of desperation gripped the citizenry. A mass meeting was held and a representative of Montgomery School District of Wayne offered to take us in, and the Montgomery Local School District was born in 1951.

By 1955, the Montgomery Local facilities were bursting at the seams with growing pains. Bradner had asked the Board to do something about the Bradner building and nothing had been done. Relations kept deteriorating until they were unbearable by both sides. The District needed a new building. Where to put it burned in every mind and each had the answer. None agreed. Then when agreement seemed possible, a legal technicality stopped it. Members of a fact-finding committee came up with facts and figures. The groundwork was carefully laid. On February 24, 1955, the State Department granted approval for the issuing of bonds. All was set, but the bond issue vote was delayed. It seems that there were only three board members present to vote and there should have been four. That same year the Montgomery Local School won the District Basketball Championship for the first time.

A bond issue the year before, 1954, had been soundly defeated and not just by Bradner.

By July 11, 1957, it was a sure thing that a consolidation, following a study made by a group from Ohio State University, (calling for the eventual elimination of the Bradner building as a school) with Cygnet, Bloomdale, and possibly Portage Township, would be effected. A petition bearing more than 600 signatures failed to stop the action. A chance meeting of the schoolboard members at an attorney's office resulted in the information that it would be possible to dissolve the District, and Bradner would retain the Montgomery Charter, and Wayne could merge to the west.

Things happened fast from that time on. On July 25, 1957 Bradner asked Risingsun to accept the high school students on a tuition basis. One hundred thirty Bradner citizens met July 26 to adopt means to stop the merger.

BRADNER VOTERS ADOPT MOVES TO STOP MERGER

were the headlines in the Sentinel July 27.

"The present consolidation plan as proposed by OSU Educational Survey is unsound, undesirable, and impractica in view of our geographical location, and being opposed an strongly against such consolidation, hereby submit to th Wood County Board the following petition:

1) That the Wood County Board of Education "refrain an abstain" from placing the former Bradner School District wit the others.

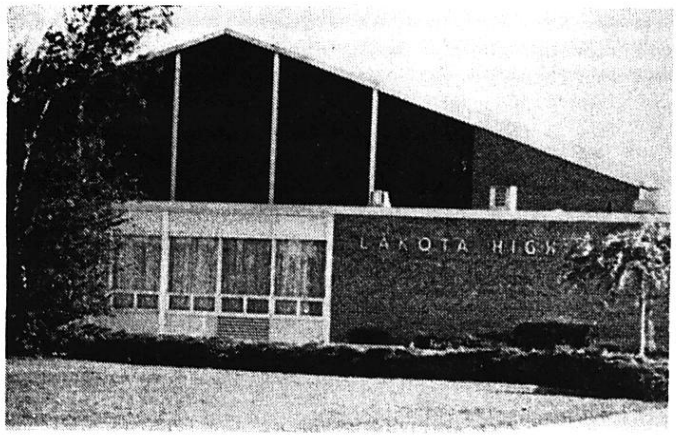
2) That there be a separation of the present Montgomer Local School District, allowing Wayne and West Millgrove wit outlying areas so desiring to enter into such consolidation a they wish.

3) That the former Bradner District be allowed to continue a Montgomery Local District and retain the present charter.

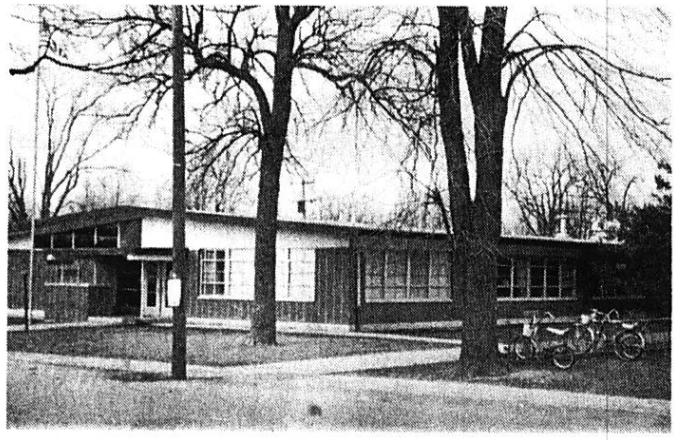
4) That conditions be such that Bradner will be allowed t engage in a building or rehabilitation program adequate t insure and provide suitable facilities for elementary grades fo Bradner and rural areas.

5) That the Bradner District have authority to tuition its hig school students to an accredited high school of its ow choosing.

6) That the Bradner Dsitrict be free to study other plans c consolidation or coordination more suitable to its geographica location at the eastern edge of the County more convenient t



Lakota High School



Bradner Elementary

the student body.
7) That there be a division of the physical assets of the present Montgomery District.
8) That the division be effective at once so that Bradner District can eventually enter into a building program.

July 30 Sentinel: SCHOOL BOARD TO STUDY SPLIT W. C. Schroeder of Cygnet, Vice President of Wood County Board of Education stated according to the article The County Board favors a school for Bradner, but he remembered the fights to keep one-room country schools when they were on the way out thirty years ago. Consolidation is what is needed.

The OSU Survey almost spelled out the doom of Bradner School. The Survey stated: Four of the five schools are very satisfactory for continued use, while, on the other hand, the Bradner building might be usable for a few years only. Therefore, the planning for the next ten years should contemplate the elimination of this building.

On August 5 at a special School Board meeting the following resolution was voted: The Montgomery Local Board of Education petitions the Wood County Board of Education to place Wayne and West Millgrove and surrounding rural area with the present Cygnet and with the present Bloomdale Districts with the combined districts to be known as the Elmwood School District and the remaining segment of Montgomery Local School District to remain and operate as such. An equitable division of all properties should be made.

August 7 Sentinel: RISINGSUN ACCEPTS BRADNER STUDENTS: 61 high school students on tuition for one year be registered at Risingsun by Friday, August 16. Victor Wood was the Superintendent.

Sentinel August 13, SCHOOL DISTRICT IS DISSOLVED: WOOD COUNTY BOARD OKS MOVE

September 5, NEW SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZES IN BRADNER. In a "first" in Ohio educational system, the Montgomery Local Board of Education appoints three members to the Board and organizes. The Board hired a grade school teacher, a bus driver, an assistant cook, and agreed to provide transportation to Wayne and to Risingsun. Mr. Adams was authorized to assign teachers to classes, to organize bus routes, and establish time schedules, and such actions necessary to open and operate school pending the permanent appointment of an administrator, awaiting the thirty-day remonstrance period.

Sentinel November 11, ONE MORE "GIANT STEP:" VOTERS TO APPROVE ADDITION TO SCHOOL; January 14, 1958, to place one of the most modern additions in the area within the district.

YOUR BOARD SPEAKS ON THE NEW ADDITION

1) Estimates on the repairing and modernizing the present structure (1903 building), making it fire resistant, soared to a figure very close to the cost of the new addition and would have left us with our problem of crowded rooms still unsolved.

2) The present building was essential for use while the proposed addition was under construction.

3) The most determining factor in the Boards decision against present rehabilitation of our existing school building is the fact that according to estimates of future enrollment, the old structure may be needed for several years to come to help house our boys and girls. We can spend just so much on school facilities. To expend that sum on a rehabilitation program that would still leave inadequate facilities would be unwise planning and a betrayal of your trust in the Board as public servants.

The ballot presented read: An addition to the existing school building and equipping same and landscaping school site in the sum of $198,000 and .1 levy of tax to be made outside the 10 mill limitation ot average 5.72 mills for each dollar of valuation, for 23 years.

The high school students were allowed to choose their school. Some wanted to graduate from Wayne where they had attended the three previous years. Others chose the new situation.

Meanwhile, Risingsun was experiencing growing pains, and a consolidation was forming within three counties, including Jackson Liberty and Jackson Burgoon Districts.

Bradner had a modern elementary building to offer a consolidation.

The new Lakota School District became effective and a new high school building was erected on Sandusky County Road 13 in 1960. Ivan Linaberry was the principal. As we all know, Fostoria is trying to erode the present school district. So far the State Department of Education has ruled favorably for us. We trust that the District will remain intact and will even grow. The present prinicpal is Nicholas Ezzone. The superintendent is superintendent is Clyde F. Forry.
Board offices are in the Risingsun building.

AGRICULTURE

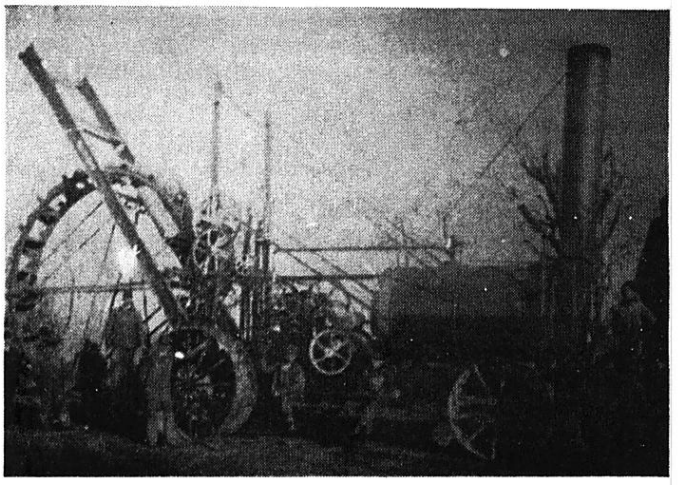
When the Northwest Territory of Ohio was established, Wood County was its wildest and most inhospitable part. The Ottawas, Wyandotts, and other tribes claimed it as their hunting grounds. Much is being said today about the injustices done to the Indians, but we let Beers, pp. 189-190, speak concerning this Territory:

"In viewing these treaties, i.e., the Indian Treaties, we are fully convinced that the Indians received a just equivalent in money and goods and otherwise...Large sums of money were paid to them, and stipulated to be paid, in perpetual annuities, as well as goods and merchandise. For instance, at one of the treaties it was stipulated that the United States should pay $10,000, in goods, and a perpetual annuity of two thousand four hundred dollars, besides furnishing the Indians with two blacksmiths for ten years. And among the provisions of the Treaty at the Foot of the Rapids, the United States engaged to erect a sawmill and a gristmill for the use of the Wyandotts, and to provide and to maintain two blacksmiths, one for use of the Wyandotts and Senecas, the other for the Indians at Hog Creek--and thereby the United States obtained an absolute title to the land. It is an historical fact that none of the public lands had ever been disposed of by the Government prior to its cession by the Indians."

Ohio had been a State just ten years, when General Harrison on February 11, 1813, in a letter to John Armstrong, Secretary of War, wrote about Wood County weather:"...The present is exactly the season, in common years, when the most intense frosts prevail, giving the most perfect security and facility in passing the lakes, rivers, swamps, with which the country abounds. For the last 12 or 13 days it has been so warm that the roads have become entirely impassable for wagons or sleds and can with difficulty be traversed by single horses. A number of wagons and sleds loaded with ammunition have been 18 days from Upper Sandusky and are yet 25 miles off. Eight days they were stopped by an uncommon freshet (a flood due to rapid melting of snow and ice and great rain that cannot drain off) and have been two more days in getting 25 miles. The weather has affected the ice on the lake... I have waited with an anxiety I cannot describe for a change in the weather."

Ohio had been a State seventeen years when Wood County began its corporate existence on February 12, 1820. The Legislature had carved fourteen counties out of the Northwest Territory, but made provisions in the Act for the organization of only two--Wood and Sandusky. The county was named in honor of Colonel Eleazer D. Wood, a graduate of West Point on General Harrison's staff in the War of 1812, under whose command he had helped to plan, build, and defend Fort Meigs. In 1814, at Fort Erie, the intrepid Wood lost his life. After the war, a monument was erected in his memory in the Post Cemetery at West Point on the Hudson.

In the 1850's we find the community growing into a rich agricultural center. Farming became very popular and profitable and was practiced on a large scale. Great acres of land had been cleared of its heavy blanket of virgin timber. The forests had been mowed away with searing crosscut saws and axes, wielded by eager farmers. The soil was fertile and crops were harvested in abundance. Each farm had its own woodlot and pasture lands and its cultivated acres. A farm was approximately 80 acres. A farm of 120 acres was really big,



Stiger tiling machine

and almost too large for one man to tend.

None are living today who can remember the anti-ditch period. We can see it only in the mind's eye as we read about it. But we can attest to what ditches have done for Wood County, and the good that has been accomplished by the millions of dollars drawn from the landowners by special taxation, and expended in draining the territory.

The first practical work done under the first ditch law in 1854 authorized twenty-six ditches in the County--three in Montgomery Township. Wooden tile have been dug up as a testimony to this early project. The change in the physical conditions of the County was almost phenomenal.

In 1851 the Wood County Agricultural Society was formed with Wilson Holcomb and William Chapman appointed for Montgomery Township. Other organizations attesting to the agricultural development were the Wood County Fair Association in 1881; the Wood County Horticultural Society in 1856; the Wood County Growers Association in 1866; Wood County Sheep Breeders Association before 1885; The Western Horse Thief Association in 1853; the Patrons of Husbandry in 1874, listing among its branches the Prospect Grange of Montgomery; and we must mention the Farmers' Institutes that started in 1899 and which all farmers attended.

Harvest times were big productions on the farms round about. Farmers helped each other, and the farm wife, aided by neighbor wives and probably all the relatives and their children, prepared dinner and usually supper for eighteen to twenty men for two days at a time, depending on the acreage, or more, because the machinery would break down. The farmer would buy a big chunk of fresh beef, probably the only time they had fresh beef except at butchering time, because the rest of the year they ate home-canned beef.

The men came with their teams and wagons. Two would work on the ground pitching the cornstalks or wheat sheaves up to the two men on the wagon whose job it was to build the load so they wouldn't be standing on the sheaf they were trying to lift. Then the wagons hauled the load to the machine and unloaded. One or more would take turns bagging the grain and others carried it to the bins or hauled it on to the elevator.

The first threshing machines that I remember were run by steam. We would run to the window or the door to watch when one happened down East Crocker. Then steam bowed out to machines run by gasoline. At the present time, the combines do the work of many men, and only two or three helpers are necessary or the farm family can take care of the work themselves.

Farmers use four-bottom or six or eight or ten-bottom plows now; instead of being self-sustaining as of old, farmers go into big production of one item, such as a dairy farm with 50 cows, or hog-raising, or chickens or farm 600-800 acres either rented or owned.

Nearly every lot in town had a barn, a chicken yard, and animals.

Grandma Smith told that she always knew when her men-folk were returning from their trip to the gristmill and knew when to finish up supper. She could hear the wagon coming on the corduroy road when they were still quite a distance away.

ELEVATORS

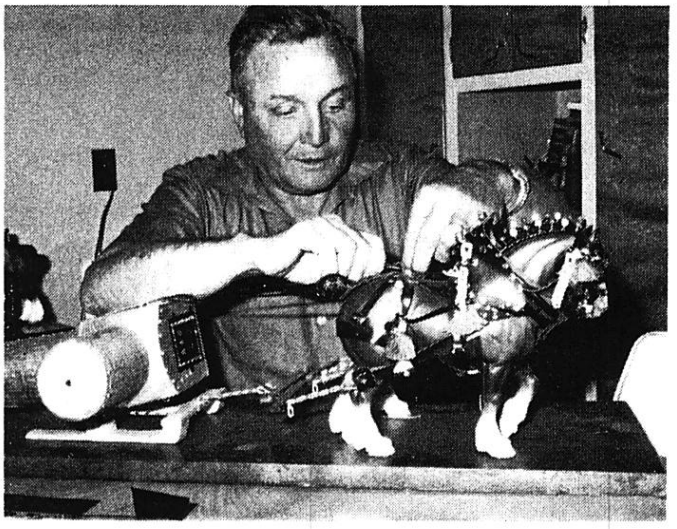
The coming of the railroad through Bradner in 1876, as has been already related, opened a great export business for surplus farm products. The railroad was unable to transport the overflow fast enough. Storage bins were inevitable. The Peterson Brothers erected an elevator in 1887, the same year that Bradner was granted a postoffice by the federal government. Two grain merchants by the name Bradner & Mahoney built an elevator in 1880.

Prominent men associated with this business since then were Strecht, Mericle, C.H. Kortier, Donald and George Klingman, and C.C. McCracken. The village today is without the services of an elevator. The last disappeared with McCracken's razing the old plant in 1923. Double tracking by the Chesapeake & Ohio made its dismantling imperative. I have been unable to locate a picture of our elevator.

RAILROADS

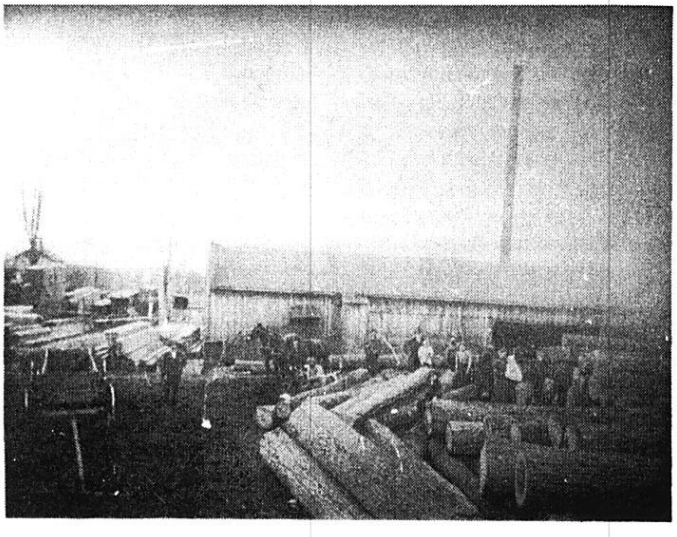
The coming of the railroad in 1876 to Bradner has already been told. During the oil boom, the Hocking Valley business boomed also. Every train carried in more passengers than it carried out. The freights carried grains and coal, almost all cars loaded to capacity. (Powerful locomotives thundered through). At times oil supplies never reached the merchants' shelves, but were sold off the cars and oilmen were left begging for more. Household goods by the carloads, medicine shows, circuses, everything needed and more! The railroad carried vital materials when the nation was entrenched in war. It carried off the men to fight.

In 1930 the Hocking Valley yielded to the age of mergers and became the property of the stockholders of the Chesapeake & Ohio system. Financial backers of the C&O installed double tracks as part of the program of building up one of the country's greatest railroad systems. The name Hocking Valley was dropped and the name C&O stands. Many living now remember the Sportsman. Toledo News Bee account of wreck on Hocking Valley, Friday, November 10, 1893: At 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9, 1893 the passenger train reached Bradner three minutes late pulling out at 6:13 going at full speed. Two minutes later there was a fearful crash, the engines were ripped to shreds like so much paper, and cars were splintered and piled up in the air. The passenger engine, what was left of it, was turned completely around. The freight engine was half buried in the mud at the side of the track. The first coal car jumped over the tender and with terrific force mowed its way the entire length of the baggage

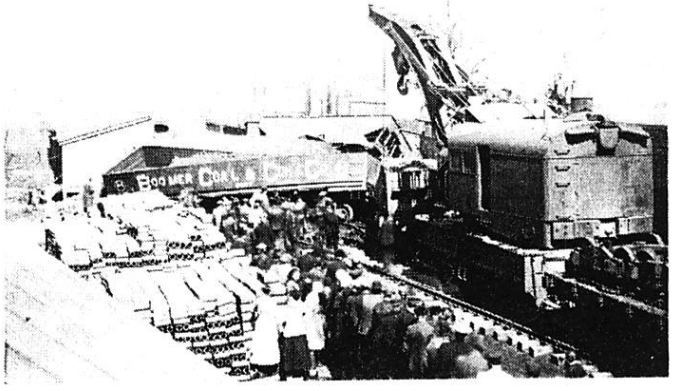


Edwin Duquette -- working on model horses

One of Mr. Duquette's creations



Stiger sawmill



Wreck on Hocking Valley Railroad

Railroad section crew

car. Fireman Leckey jumped and had a miraculous escape from death, while the engineer with him and the men on the other engine were killed. The coal car smashed through the baggage car, killing the express messenger, James C. Gresh, instantly. Fireman Leckey says the first he knew of the danger was the bright light of the passenger train shining right in his face. Unconsciously, he jumped and must have landed in the soft mud which broke his fall.

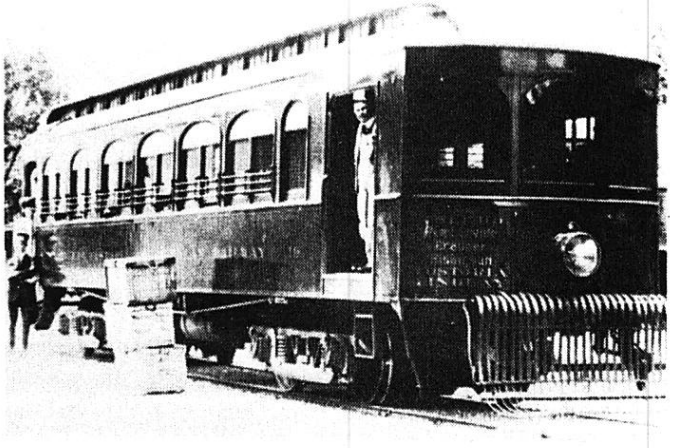
Superintendent A.E. Robbins, who had been in Toledo and was on his way home, looked at Engineer Kerlin's watch and found it had stopped at 5:58. As the accident did not happen until 6:15, it is safe to assume that the timepiece had stopped before the engineer looked at it, thus misleading him. If the watch was not stopped, it was very slow. He figured that he had ample time to clear for the passenger train.

When the two engines struck, the freight was probably running at the rate of 15 miles per hour and the passenger at 20 to 25 miles per hour. The two engines turned parallel with the track and stood and were piled side by side in the ditch, both boilers being entirely stripped of their machinery. The engines cleared the tracks and the tender of the freight split the baggage car right in two. Baggageman Rueder was pinned down beneath a hot stove with live coals falling out over his body. On top of this were several trunks. Rueder very cooly asked the superintendent to put the fire out. When the fire was out and the stove lifted, he pulled himself out and began looking for Gresh, the expressman, found two hours later, lying across one corner of the water tank with the timbers of the baggage car atop.

Engineer Kerlin died a most horrible death, being crushed and scalded beyond recognition; when we found him, he was lying face downward across the corner of the tender of his engine beneath the trucks of a coal car. His intestines were hanging over the edge of the tender and scattered around for five or six feet mixed up with coal and cinder. It was a sickening sight you may guess."

The conductor Thornton of the freight train said they had run through Risingsun noticed by his watch they were late and knew they could not reach Bradner to clear the passenger. He and the brakeman began setting the brakes to stop the freight, if possible. By this time they were nearing Bradner, and because of the heavy fog could not signal the engine, and before the train could be stopped, the collision had occurred...Had they gone into the switch at Risingsun, the collision would never have occurred.

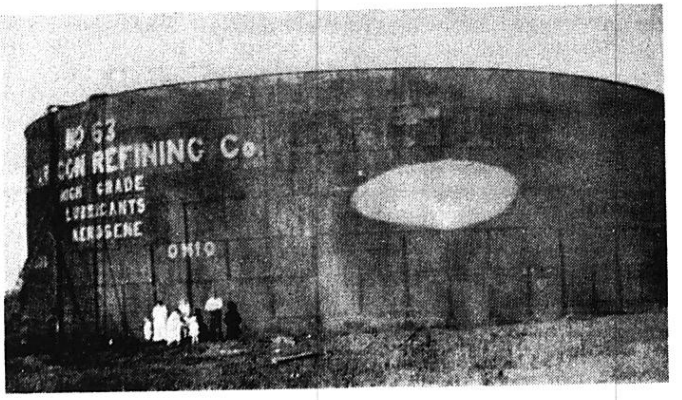
Mr. E.E.Connor of the Smead Heating and Ventilating Co.



Toledo, Fostoria & Findlay Interurban

of Toledo was bound for Delaware. His account: "I was seated in the rear of the day coach next to the smoker. All at once I felt a shock most terrific and its force seemed to lift me up and shoot me forward and I landed four seats toward the middle of the coach. Conductor Joseph was in the act of seating himself opposite me and he landed three or four seats beyond me on his head, and was badly injured. He had arisen to his feet and was staggering about, blinded by blood which was flowing freely from an ugly cut on the top of his head. One of the four ladies, quite aged, from Chilicothe, Mrs. Alford, rolled up her sleeves and dressed the conductor's wounds. She didn't seem to mind the blood which stained her elegant dress and bedimmed several diamonds on her hands. Dr. King of Fostoria was on the train and began ministering to the injured. A physician from Bradner was soon available with bandages and drugs. I helped take Engineer Jones and his son out of the wreck. They were both dead when removed. The father must have been killed instantly as his body was crushed beneath the cab of his engine with hot water and steam pouring over it. The son indicated his whereabouts by a succession of groans. After he was pulled out he gave a gasp or two and died. It was 4 this morning before they got Gresh, the expressman, out and he was quite dead." There have been a number of fatal accidents at the crossings and along the tracks, as well as a number of train wrecks where the cars have piled up and no one was injured.

NATURAL RESOURCES



The prospect for gas and oil, that precious jade liquid, had drawn close to Bradner on the west as early as 1885. The first effort to sink a well within the village occurred in April 1886. This well was drilled by the newly incorporated Bradner Natural Gas Company on the stave factory lot (the site of the light plant) and was a light producer. The price of oil was 15 cents a barrel at this time and it proved to be anything but a paying investment. Like other ventures in this field the enterprise fell through. The returns to the citizens who had invested were small.

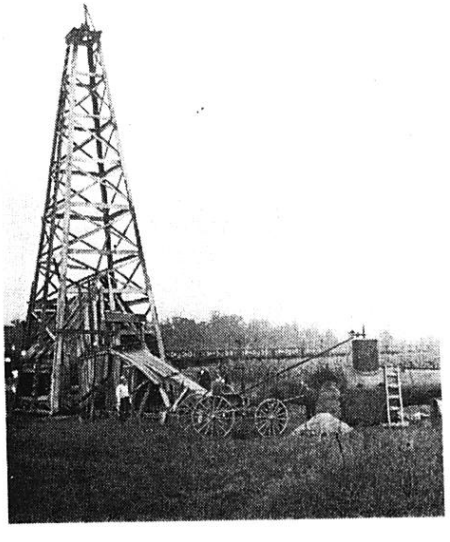
Messrs. Wise, Edmonds, Bort, et al., formed the Bradner, Ohio Refining Company and to them the factory was donated; but the enterprise of the partners did not meet with great success either. In November, 1888, the refinery shipped the first car-load of oil, refined under the Yargon process to Toledo, and within six years, further advances were made toward rendering this oil very nearly equal to any other on the market.

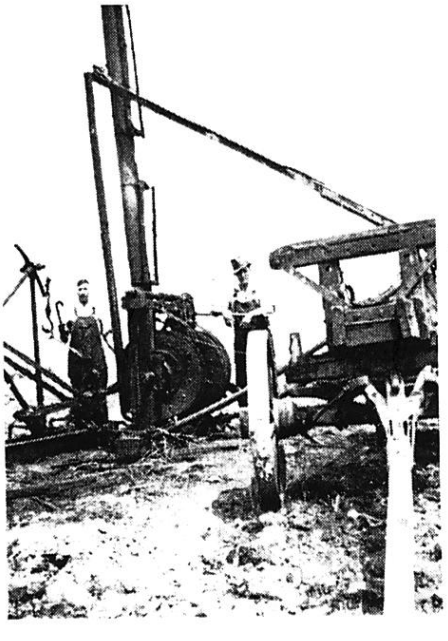
A few more wells were sunk but little to show for it. A lull struck the new industry. Speculators became dubious and more conservative. The Perrysburg Journal warned its readers against the oil fever. "To every poor man we say stand from under this humbug; it will soon fall and illustrate the old adage of 'fools and their money are soon parted.' A word to the wise is sufficient."

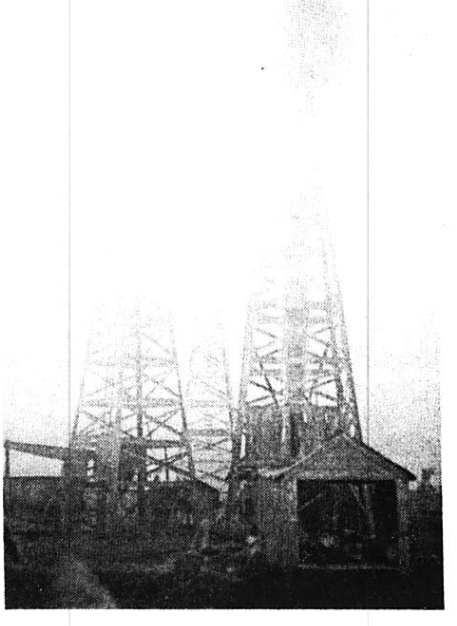
Shortly following the drilling of this well, however, there was an era of great and rapid expansion, and the field development caught on rapidly. Good wells were found in many locations. The Bradner Oil Company took the lead in developing the Montgomery field, making leases on the cash royalty of four cents on the barrel.

Wealth in a new form began to flow into pockets, oil royalties! Owners of farms where oil was discovered shared in the golden stream of riches. When the precious fluid was found, it showered its blessings many years on the few fortunate to be within the prized circle. Little did the early settlers who forced their way into this swampy wilderness realize they were building their homes and tilling their soil over such vast reservoirs of wealth and riches which one day was to come forth and add substantially and quickly to their sum of worldly goods in an almost unbelievably and perfectly miraculous way. Little did they know that, uninviting as it was, the great Black Swamp which covered Northwest Ohio and the last section of the State to be settled because of its morasses, and cholera, and forbidding appearance generally, was indeed the end of the rainbow, for beneath the water and the soggy land was fluid which eventually made them wealthy, recompensing them many times for their fortitude and courage in helping to transform the swamp into a place where one can live safely and comfortably. Little did they envision the great change to come in their lives and the lives of their children and of the good fortune in the years ahead.

Under the royalty system, owners of land received one sixth of all gross production of oil found on their ground. Just how much this was depended on the wells. Gushers made farmers rich almost over night. Where land had been yielding ordinary income through the years, there was now an added income from beneath ground which in amounts frequently went far ahead of profit from farm crops. This came in convenient checks which meant no more work than signing his name to a lease. The new income made the land owners immensely wealthy in many cases. For all, it meant a tremendous increase







in purchasing power and a big contribution to general prosperity for the neighborhood. It meant college educations for youth on the farm, and a bigger and better life for all. It continues to exist in a much smaller degree today.

The well on the Fralick farm in Section 3 may be considered the first heavy producer. The flowing of the well started the most exciting episode in the town's history. The wonder well was drilled, shot and with the blast came the "Gusher." Bradner was the mecca of the oil industry over night. Drilled in late 1889, it responded as a fifty-barrel hole, and led to the drilling of twelve more before May 1, 1890, in sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 15--all of which became known as sixty and seventy barrel wells. The rock was found at from 1,185 to 1,200 feet, and oil at from fifteen to thirty feet in it, or about 500 feet above the deadline. A well which flowed 210 barrels in two hours caused the great stampede in March, 1890, and before the close of November, no less than 400 wells were completed, and many more commenced within the boundaries of Montgomery township.

Quoting directly from "Tootles": "The boom was on, and oil was the magnet responsible. Gushers were common. Oil came faster than it could be transported. Refineries were built to manufacture by-products from the liquid. The Craig Oil Company was the first to erect 'cracking' plants in Bradner. A large share of the local crude was refined before shipment. Huge receiving tanks were assembled to house the unctuous liquid, and the crude was still in excess of tank car shipment. The pipeline was not yet a part of the system of the oil network. Refining oil was very profitable and I am told by old-timers here that had it not been for the intervention of a couple of pessimistic land owners, Bradner would today be the home of one of the largest refineries in the world. The oil game, like every other business, was not without its chizzelers (sic). That can easily be seen by the crooked incident revealed to me by one of the contributors to this retrospective narrative.

"Calamity had been drilled on the Nelson Rozelle property northeast of Bradner on what is now U.S. 23. Three corporations had succeeded in leasing the trio of plots at respective angles to the famed Calamity. Two of the companies were fair in their operations, but the other was vividly eccentric. The idea of the unfair syndicate was to bore a hole to the same depth as the "spouter" and with a heavy shot tap the vein, the source from which Calamity was fed. The hole was put down to the desired depth. Five hundred and twenty quarts of nitro-glycerine, nearly 1,500 pounds of this deadly explosive, was lowered to the bottom of the well. Down went the go-devil. The roar of the explosion was deafening, rocking a large section of the surface. But old "Calamity" was unaffected. The shot brought only a vast expense to the chizzelers (sic) as their well came in little better than a dry hole. The shot they had spent so much for started one of the wells being drilled by another company just across the road to start flowing. That well was only part-way drilled when the blast commenced it to spout. Honesty was the best policy."

The Wood County History reports on the largest shot known: "the field aims at large things. In August, 1895, 400 quarts, or 1,333½ pounds of glycerine were used in shooting the Van Vleck and Stowe well. This is said to have been the largest shot ever used in the Bradner field, or as far as known to this writer, in any other division of Wood County oildom." The Van Vleck and Stowe was located north of Bradner on what is now U.S. 23 on the Mother Jones property.

"The nation's oil-minded flocked into the new-found center of oil business. Scores of oil hands arrived daily to bid for the black gold pouring out of the earth. Sociability prevailed. "[illegible] shot" producers hobnobbed with drillers, contractors, and tool dressers. The refinery that had been established shipped much of the crude product that was refined here to the business centers. In 1890, The Craig Oil Company and the Bradner Oil Company erected two large receiving tanks costing $5000 and $6000, having been given permission to build tanks, loading racks, agitators, and anything necessary to carry on business. 1892 found the Manhatton Oil Company in business on lot No.195 and surrounding (see map); and the Paragon Refining Company laying a pipeline. Prior to the advent of the pipeline a great amount of oil was marketed by tank cars. Derricks had seemed to spring up over night. One person remarked that derricks were so thick in the north and west ends of the town that squirrels used them like trees. In 1890, Council passed an ordinance making it illegal to drill oil and gas wells closer than 200 feet to any building. The old sounds of threashing machines and lowing of cattle were drowned out by the chugging of steam pumps and harsh yelp of the barkers which ran the exhaust engines informing the pumpers in their doghouses (the shanties they used as a base of operations) that the well was pumping steadily. Hardly a farm in the area that did not have a well on it--a well that did not yield 100 barrels a day was of little worth--one that yielded only twenty-five barrels a day was placed in the dry column.

"A large machine shop was constructed between the railroad and South Main at the end of Edmonds Street. The glycerine barns were in the peak just south of the machine shop. Glycerine wagons were required to go through town at a slow walk."

BRADNER ADVOCATE--November 16, 1894.

"A GUSHER--Kirkbride Bros. Jones farm No. 2 four miles northeast of Bradner came in yesterday at two screws in the sand and is making about 200 barrels an hour. They were not expecting it and had made no preparation for tanking oil. It threw oil over the trees at least three-quarters of a mile. This well is located about one mile north of the Myers No. 3 which is making 100 barrels an hour.

"Bradner now boasts of the largest oil well in the world. Kirkbride Bros. No. 3 Myers farm three miles northeast of town was shot on the 8th and is now producing 100 barrels an hour. It is now one week old and has not varied a barrel since first struck. It is the largest producer in the world today barring none."

These buildings destroyed by 1920 fire

'Oil spurred on the invention of gasoline engines and the automobile. Oil men said frequently that more money had been spent in Wood County than had ever been derived from the sale of gas or oil, but the money was none-the-less beneficial. It has made hard working people and enabled them to add to their material wealth."

NITRO-GLYCERINE

"Synonymous with the term of oil is the deadly high explosive nitroglycerine. This treacherous liquid was much in demand for shooting wells. It was more powerful than any other explosive. When drilling oil wells was put on the production basis in 1888, the chemical compound could not be imported quickly enough to supply the rapidly expanding industry.

"The American Glycerine Company, realizing that Bradner was unquestionably the actual center of the oil operations in the State, built a factory east of town to manufacture the "soup" as the liquid was commonly called. The office was set up on the ground floor of John C. Sheets Livery Stables on West Crocker east of the Oliver Harris Saloon.

"The process of making this explosive was a very dangerous occupation and on no less than six occasions the mixture went haywire and blew up. The eruptions occurred, four on the Hamilton farm east of the cemetery and two on the Clark farm a half-mile east of town. These explosions claimed many lives and piled up huge property damage. Those who lost their lives were Louis Cisco, George Washburn, Dan Lavan, Edward Linkenstein, and Huey Easton. The last named had survived a previous blowup, being tossed into the air many feet and was ill for many months afterwards. George Washburn was a shooter and it is supposed that he was loading a magazine onto the wagon and dropped a can resulting in the explosion. Louis Cisco was partially covered by the coal pile and was still alive when the people gathered.

Quoting Bradner Daily Graphic, Saturday, January 18, 1891:

EXPLOSION--NITRO GLYCERINE

An explosion occurred yesterday. Everyone rushed outside, thinking their houses were tumbling on their heads. In a few moments smoke could be seen rising from the treetops in the direction of the magazine, situated in Edmonds woods three fourths of a mile from town. The ground for several rods around where the building stood in which the glycerine was stored was swept clean and not a sign of the building is left. Trees were torn to shreds. Considerable damage was done in the way of broken glass. D. Hoiles had the greatest loss, the whole front of his new building was blown in, it being a total wreck. J.H. Denny lost three large glasses out of his store front; E. Evans one large glass out of the Buckeye Store; Wyant and Evans, one glass; A.L. Bordner, two glasses; Youngs Bros., one glass; Raab & Thom, E. J. Teeples, and J.F. Huffman, each lost all the glass on the south side of their places. Some dwellings had glass broken out."

Oil well burning in 1885

Quoting BRADNER ADVOCATE, December 10, 1897. (If gore bothers you, skip this one)

GLYCERINE EXPLOSION

Tuesday morning (the 7th) at 8:30 a report like that of a gun was heard in town coming from the east and south. Word soon reached town that the American Glycerine Factory less than a mile from town had blown up. The force of the explosion was so light that no one believed it, but at the site one was convinced it was all too true. It was also reported that Dan B. Lavan had been killed, which was verified by bits of flesh on the ground.

The factory had not been operated for at least three months and all tanks had been filled with water to keep them from falling apart. When cold weather set in, John C. Coons had drained the tanks for winter. In the "canning room" is a barrel used as a drip through which water and waste passes and the glycerine washed from the tanks is deposited. Here is where the trouble rested.

Dan, who had been unemployed, was making his home with John Widmer while awaiting a call to go to work in a factory in Indiana. At the time of his death he was helping Mr. Coons keep fire in the magazine and draining up the factory. Anybody who knew Dan knows he wanted to be useful and this caused him to lose his life.

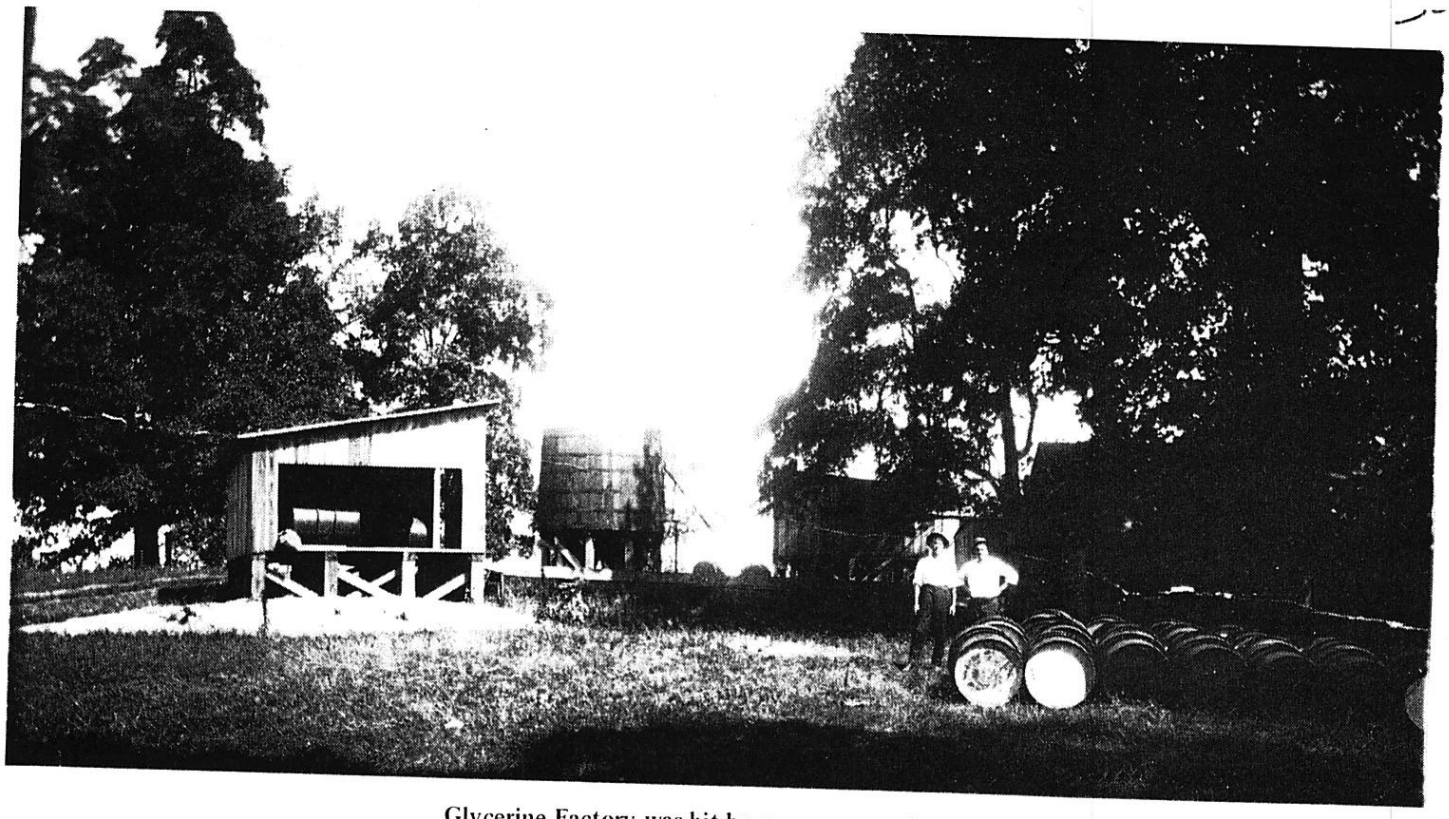
He knew that the drip barrel had glycerine in it and that it should be cleaned before it froze up. He was told by Mr. Coons to leave it alone. He told people in town the night before that he had a job the next day he was afraid to tackle. Tuesday morning he went to the factory alone to do the job. No one knows how much glycerine was in the barrel or how he happened to set it off. The only plausible theory is that in a half-sitting position he was leaning over the barrel, breaking the ice, and set off the explosive. His body from the trunk down was blown to fragments. One side and both arms went one way, one side from hips to shoulder, part of the arm, skin of the side of his face, one ear and part of the scalp were blown through the building, up the side and into a tree, and then dropped in a bleeding mass just outside the building not more than ten feet from where it started. The only wonder is that there was so much of him left in one piece."

Frank Coveney and some other boys had dammed up the glycerine ditch for a swimming pool. Whenever an explosion occurred, they would skip school and run out there. Whenever a new boy came to town, he would be shown the tree and would be told that a piece of a man was still up there.

Quoting Bradner Advocate, September 4, 1903

GLYCERINE FACTORY EXPLOSION

The Hercules Nitro-Glycerine Factory a mile and a half east of town blew up at 8:30 a.m., Monday, August 31. Like all other explosions, the whys and wherefors were blown up. Fortunately no one was killed. At the time of the explosion Mr. Lew Eckert was in charge with Mr. Verne Copus assisting,



Glycerine Factory was hit by numerous explosions

while Mr. Hugh Easton, the manager, was on vacation. The work progressed as usual until Mr. Eckert, who was canning the first run downstairs, finished his job and came upstairs to work. Mr. Copus met him at the top of the stairs with a monkey wrench in his hand. He called Mr. Eckert's attention to something downstairs and struck him twice on the head. Mr. Eckert started for town and in about 15 minutes the earth was shaken. It was thought at first that Mr. Copus was killed, but he showed up later in town. What made the factory blow up or cause of the quarrel will remain a mystery. Both men have their story.

1913 EXPLOSION

A series of explosions occurred in 1913 when Ed Linkenstein and Huey Easton met a hideous death. So terrific was the blast that it was felt in neighboring towns and as far away as Toledo. Mr. Easton, who had retired from the work shortly after his previous experience, was helping out for the time. Realizing that the explosion was coming, he had stepped behind the boiler for protection. In previous explosions, the boiler had not been affected. This time the boiler tipped over on him, pinning him beneath and spewing out its contents all over his body. Clifford Morrison had been asked by Mr. Easton to help mix, but his mother-in-law, Mrs. McCreary, had had a dream that something terrible was going to happen, and had talked him out of going.

After that explosion the town officials insisted on the removal of the plant from the position near the Keller Road east of the cemetery in belief that the hill would break the shock where the village was concerned.

Quoting Bradner Advocate, January 10, 1930

CONFUSION REIGNS AS GLYCERINE PLANT EXPLOSION ROCKS BRADNER

On Monday, January 6, a torn hillside east of town bore striking testimony to man's triumph over matter. Twisted pieces of glycerine containers, splintered boards, uprooted trees, and a hole in the earth large enough to hold a house, added another page to the local history of the dangerous explosive--a story that Bradner people know all too well.

On this morning Bridge MacIntosh of Kentucky, O.L. DeMint, and J.O. Price of Findlay, were mixing in the plant on the Clark hill. A defective coil is said to have caused the batch the men were "cooking" to get away from them. Seeing that an explosion was unavoidable, the men ran for their lives, thus averting a tragedy such as the community had witnessed on two previous occasions.

Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Clark, living about a half mile from the factory, saw the flames and telephoned warnings into town. The siren sounded and the blast soon followed, rocking buildings and breaking windows. To older residents the explosion told a familiar and gruesome tale of death and destruction that had been repeated several times since oil boom days.

Not so for the small children who were terror-stricken as the jar shook the school building, crashing window panes to the floor. Pandemonium broke loose and it required all the patience and skill of the teachers to quiet the panic-stricken children.

Many living today can remember this explosion. This magazine was still being rented by Dupont DeNamours plant in 1943. Since then, the grounds have been filled in and a residence now stands on the very foundations of the factory, the basement being at different levels. The sand around in places has a sweet smell, and bits of metal can still be found in trees. The present owner, Mrs. Richard (Emily Deno) St. Clair, says that the shock was felt in Elmore; she remembers her father saying that it was more than just blasting at the quarries around there. This writer heard the firewhistle and rushed to the window. Then the explosion came and the window to the south split and fell out on the ground.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

During 1892, the Village Council realized the value of industrial development to the community and on December 13 entered into this agreement with the Village as "Party of the First Part:" The Village of Bradner, party of the first part, S.E. Niece and D.I. Dale, parties of the second part; the Incorporated Village of Bradner hereby covenant and agree with said S.E. Niece and D.I. Dale, to do and perform matters and things following: 1st, To give warranty deed for lots No. 2, and No.3, in the Village of Bradner. 2nd, To vacate Edmonds Street from Main Street to the Railroad grounds and convey said part of Edmonds Street to the second parties. 3rd, To pay $300.00 in cash, half paid when material, machinery is on the ground of said lots--half to be paid when Machine Shop is complete and manufacturing is in operation. 4th, to furnish: $200.00 in labor and material for construction of physical shop. 5th, To permit to drill one well for oil and gas on said lots as far as possible from any buildings. The parties of the second part agree to the following:
1st, to erect Machine Shop, Blacksmith Shop, and Boiler Shop on said lots, worth at least $5,000. 2nd, to employ at least 8 skilled workmen. 3rd, To return said property to Village of Bradner for $1.00 providing they should abandon or cease to operate said Machine Shop within three years. Bradner Machine Shop functioned for quite a few years Herb Hutchinson mentioned that they made bull wheels there.

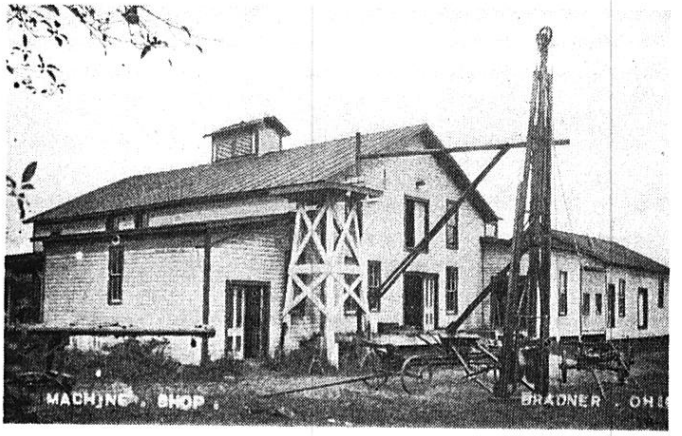
OTHER EARLY PLANTS

A canning factory operated for a season in the north end of town west of the tracks. I understand that the canning part worked well except quite a few husbands were disgruntled that their wives were not at home. The managers failed to provide an outlet for the goods.

IRON KING MANUFACTURING COMPANY

William Heckert took over the building and turned it into a machine shop where he manufactured his own special pulling machine and had sales all over oildom. This building burned and another was erected. It is the second building that Bradner Mutual Enterprises purchased to begin the industrial development after WW II.

Ed Mason, Elbert Goetz, Ira Chronister, Sherd Holcombe



Old canning factory

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT 1947-1976

Like many small rural communities immediately after World War II, Bradner was faced with the problem of luring industry to mix with its agricultural background and give it balance. Community leaders realized that their best opportunity was with a small or new business, which would allow the community to grow as the firm prospered. The outgrowth was the Bradner Mutual Enterprises, Inc., organized July 8, 1947, with the avowed purpose of promoting business expansion through the personal investment of town people, an organization directly responsible for promoting the industrial future of the community.

After organizing, the new group was faced with the problem of what it could do best to interest business in locating in Bradner. Should it give funds, or lands, or buildings? The group felt nothing should be given away--any worthwhile business would not ask anything free. "We wanted our money to work for us." Stock was to be sold, not with the idea of realizing a personal profit immediately, but rather an investment in the town's future. The directors would not be paid so that only people genuinely interested in the welfare of Bradner would want the job. Prime objectives were to control and invest the corporate funds safely and profitably, and through such investments to improve the economic life of our community. Every property owner would benefit through industrial development because property values would increase and be maintained.

Capitalized at $25,000 with an initial 66 stockholders, shares were quickly subscribed at $50.00 each, purchase of at least one share with the maximum of ten. Ned Stiger, local postmaster at the time, was chosen President: Rev. Wm. F. Wiegman, St. James Lutheran Church pastor, treasurer; Harold Sage of Sage & Sons furniture and mortuary; Russell Berridge, manager of Kelsey-Freeman Lumber Company; and Brandon Smith, manager of American Motors at Bowling Green, Ohio. Edward F. Dow, an engineer at the Fostoria Auto-Lite Company, was appointed secretary. Other members of the Board of Directors through the years have been M.C. Morrison, Pearl Bowers, Plin Smith, Clayton McDole, Arthur Sworden, Reginald Ryder, Dale Adams, John Altwies, James Youngs. At the present time E.F. Dow is president; Rev. Wiegman, treasurer; Lois Stiger secretary; Milo Smith, general manager. At the annual stockholders meeting in March another director will be elcted to replace James Youngs, deceased.

A month after incorporation, the enterprise purchased the building abandoned by the Iron King Mfg. Co., former manufacturers of oil well pulling machines equipment. On

October 1, 1947, the Ottawa Rubber Company of Toledo, a new firm, moved in, renting on a monthly basis with option to buy after ten years.

Satisfied with its first venture, the BME decided to branch out in 1949 and purchase the Emma Burnsides estate, a home for a physician. Working through the Ohio Medical Association and direct communication with hospitals, Dr. H.S. Elliott from Sidney, Ohio, rented the home and office on a monthly basis, and purchased the home in 1952.

With two thirds of its stock sold in 1949, BME paid a 3% dividend. In 1959 BME paid its seventh dividend, 2½% on the original investment, with 180 stockholders and capitalized at $50,000.

In 1952 BME erected a building for Mechanical Products Co., which dissolved operations in 1954. In 1956 the Foundry Flask and Equipment Company of Michigan moved in and soon an addition was built. Also in 1956, BME erected a second building for Ottawa Rubber.

Then came the recession. The machinery which the Mechanical Products Company had in its building was purchased by BME and leased to the Bradner Machine Products Company.

The Barber Infared Associates, a new company composed of men from Fostoria and Tiffin, purchased the Foundry Flask building in 1959.

In 1959, BME purchased ground from Plin Smith near the railroad depot in the southwest corner of Bradner west of the C&O tracks, and also land from the Toledo Edison, the old T F & F right of way, and erected a building for Bradner Industries, which opened in April, 1959, employing six full time workers. The same year, Ottawa Rubber purchased its buildings.

In 1960, the Edwin L. Wiegand Mfg. Co. purchased Barber Infared Associates as a subsidiary and renamed it Radcor, Inc.

In 1961 BME interested First National Bank of Fostoria in establishing a branch office in Bradner. After two applications to the federal banking authorities were turned down, interested village residents and shareholders organized a letter-writing campaign to our elected representatives to press for the establishment of a bank. The campaign was successful and BME gained the approval of the Comptroller of the Currency. A formal ground breaking ceremony was held, Tuesday, November 28, 1961, at 102 West Crocker Street in the center of the business district. Harold Sage turned the first shovelful. Open house was held April 21, 1962, with more than 1,000 visitors, and opened for business on May 1. Bradner had been without a bank since the bank holiday in 1933. I understand that had a few not been so faint-hearted, we would have had one when banks were again allowed to open at that time.

Tri-County purchased the building in 1967 after five years. Marlon Rusk, manager at the time, stated, "Since the operations of the bank have exceeded our original expectations, the bank is happy to make a permanent investment in Bradner real estate and in so doing permit the shareholders of BME to receive a return on their investment."

March 6, 1967, BME marked its 20th anniversary with a dinner in the Bradner Elementary School followed by a business meeting. More than 100 attended. Mayor Donald Graber presented a key to the village with Ned Stiger and Rev. Wm. F. Wiegman receiving it as organizers. Mrs. Brandon (Hazel) Smith accepted a letter of appreciation in behlaf of her husband, now deceased, who was also one of the first Board of Directors. Representing industries were C.L. Burget, Louis Debauch, Neal Beaver, and John Rojewski, all of Ottawa Rubber; Mr. and Mrs. Al Kane, Bradner Machine Products; Robert Fast and Clarence Dupler, Tri-County National Bank; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Senecal, Fab-Rite, Inc.; Mr. and Mrs. John Crandall, Columbia Gas of Ohio; Norman Jimison, Toledo Edison.

In 1971, BME undertook the largest single industrial construction in the history of the little community. The building leased to Bradner Industries was doubled in size totalling 31,205 square feet. The new building was designed to include two bridge cranes capable of handling 16,000-pound loads, and was completed in 1972.

On March 3, 1969, the 22nd annual stock holders meeting was held at the American Legion Hall, The stockholders asked the directors to renew the efforts to secure a resident doctor and look into the possibility of erecting additional rental housing units. Present at this meeting were the Lakota Board of Education, representatives of local businesses and organizations, the Village officials, and David Drury WSPD-TV Toledo. Two men in the field of rural medical service from Iowa explained a program as a result of a doctor survey and showed slides.

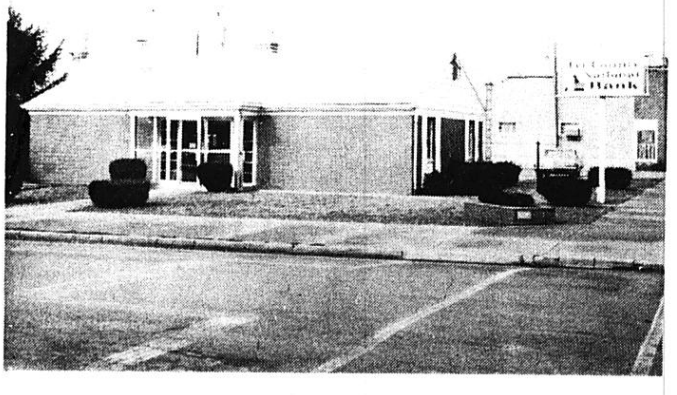
Since then BME financed and established the Tri Village Medical Clinic, a non-profit organization, a combination of three communities: Risingsun, Wayne and Bradner. A facility has been purchased in Wayne, and a contract has been signed with a dentist, and it seems likely at this writing that a doctor will be secured in the near future. These are the latest data as of January, 1976.

BANKING IN BRADNER

Our narrative encompasses the most eventful century in the nation's history...a century in which revolutionary changes have occurred in almost every field of human endeavor, including banking.

With the continued growth of the community in the late 1800s, there became a need for local banking facilities, rather than traveling to Bowling Green or Fostoria. In December, 1894, the Globe Building and Loan Association was organized. Officers of the organization were M.H. Murray, president; W.C. O'Bryan, vice president; Orion Kirk, Secretary-Treasurer; J.E. Ladd, Attorney. Directors were Daniel Stahl, David Edmonds, W.L. Cribbs, W.S. Gregg, J.M. Cribbs, and D.H. Runneals. There is no record when this organization disbanded.

The Mechanics Savings Bank Company incorporated July 14, 1890, in Fostoria, and later changed their name to



Bank building

Mechanics Banking Co. in 1899, and opened a branch in Bradner at the turn of the century. The Mechanics Banking Company changed from a State to a National Charter in 1909 and became known as the Union National Bank. Presidents of the Mechanics Banking Company were Charles Olmstead, Owen T. Brown, William Manecke, and Eugene W. Allen.

Bradner was without a bank for many years until First National Bank of Fostoria was approached by the citizens of the community in 1958 to apply for a branch office in Bradner. At the time of the first application by First National Bank, Mr. Andrew Emerine was Chairman of the Board and Mr. Eldred Layton was President of the Bank. The first request filed with the Controller of Currency in March 1958 was refused as was the second application in March, 1961. Finally in December of 1961, approval was received and the Bradner office was opened in May, 1962, this being the third office of First National Bank. The bank became Tri-County National Bank in 1963. The second branch is at Bloomdlae, Ohio, and a fourth branch has been opened at Risingsun. During the years here the office has grown and has jsut recently been remodeled. Present bank personnel are Wayne Irwin, Assistant Cashier; Norma Lentz, Administrative Assistant; Sunday Bowe, Nellie Edinger, and Marganne Sherrard, tellers. Open House was held Saturday, February, 21, 1976, featuring Centennial Displays.

BRADNER INDUSTRIES, DIVISION OF AMERICAN WARMING & VENTILATING

Initially a division of American Furnace and Foundry Company, Bloomington, Indiana, American Warming & Ventilating was founded in 1904 as a regional contractor for the installation of gravity heating systems. The company remained a contractor until the mid 40's when the development of forced warm air heating systems dictated a change in direction.

Fred A. Merry purchased the company and diversified into the manufacture of air control equipment. Furnace contracting was gradually phased out and full emphasis placed on the design and manufacture of louvers, dampers and shutters at 1017 Summit Street in Toledo, present site of the company's administrative headquarters.

In 1954, the company again changed hands and, under the direction of E.H. Johnson, in 14 years grew from $250,000 in sales to more than $2,000,000 annually. During this time lasting relationships were established with Buffalo Forge, Westinghouse, American Standard, Ilg Industries, Tuttle and Bailey, to name just a few.

Limited manufacturing was begun in Bradner in 1957. In 1962, Toledo manufacturing was discontinued and transferred from Summit Street to plants in Bradner, Ohio, and Waldron, Michigan. With the continued growth of American Warming & Ventilating, the Bradner facility has been expanded three times.

Bradner Products: Specially designed dampers for heavy industyr, and weather louvers for commercial and industrial constructions. Control dampers for the power industry, including dampers for the safeguard systems in nuclear power plants; and inlet vanes for fan control.

The present ownership acquired the company in 1968. AWV is an Ohio Corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Entelco.

We believe we have built the finest sales represetnative organization in the air handling industry--220 persons employed by 54 companies in 66 offices nationwide. We are represented in Puerto Rico and have licensees in Canada and South Africa.

Since 1968, we have experienced increased shipments in all product categories. Our most dynamic growth has resulted from an early decision to capitalize on our broad design capability. We have concentrated on specialty dampers for the process, primary metal, air pollution control and nuclear and fossil power plant industries with excellent success. As a result, our engineering staff has grown from 6 to 14 qualified professionals.

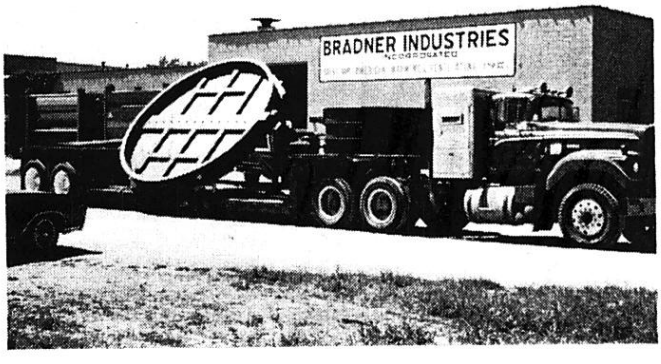
We fully expect to continue our growth as a company, and in Bradner, with the continued dedicated support of our employees and the community.

INDUSTRIAL DIMENSIONS, INC. I.D.I.

The newest addition to the Bradner manufacturing scene is Industrial Dimensions, Inc. Although I.D.I. began its development in Bradner in 1971, the actual operation began to function here June of 1972.

The company bought out the cabinet operation of Regis Mfg. Co. of Melvindale, Mich., early in 1972. It was operated at that location until the end of May when the entire operation was moved to Bradner.

A major addition to the plant in late 1973 was the new warehouse section, changing the appearance from an L-shaped building to a rectangular shape.



Bradner Industries

Industrial Dimensions, Inc.

In the spring of '74 the appearance of the front again changed when new offices were added.

I.D.I. currently has three separate product lines. The primary product is the home assembled vanity line that is sold throughout the Untied States featuring their own excellent fastener. This allows the purchaser to assemble a very attractive unit with the precision of a cabinet maker product in less than 5 minutes. Another I.D.I. product is a line of post-formed counter top blanks for cabinet dealers in Ohio and Michigan produced on their specialized machines. The latest addition to the product line-up is the high pressure laminating line where formica is bonded to panels. These panels are supplied to other cabinet manufactureers as well as being used by I.D.I. for fabrication of their vanities.

I.D.I.'s highly automated facility also produces dishwasher tops and other custom products for major companies in the U.S. and Canada. Recently the company began producing all of the vanities for a major company on a private label basis.

A new vinyl laminating line is being installed soon to supply laminates for a new line of home assembled cabinets. A flow of new products should continue to allow for the steady growth of the company and facilities here in Bradner.

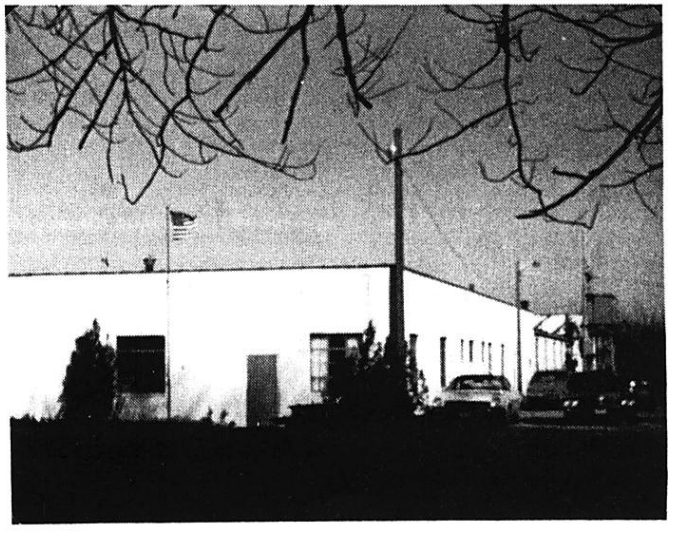
I.D.I. employs local people primarily from Bradner and surrounding areas. The officials are President and General Manager, Joseph P. Bright; Vice President and Sales Manager, R. Joseph Belisle; Superintendent, Harold Wilcox.

OTTAWA RUBBER COMPANY

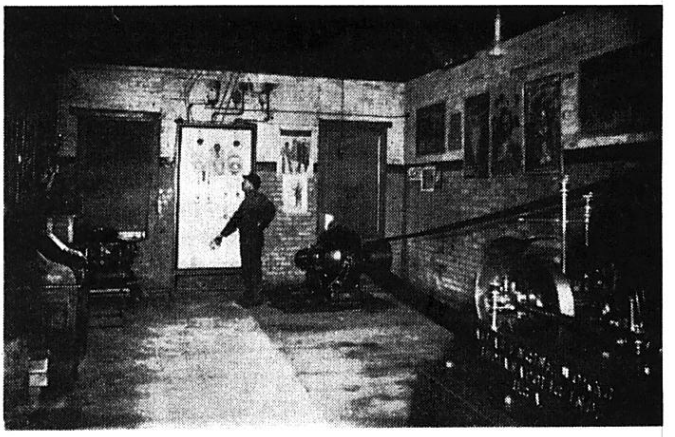
The Ottawa Rubber Company is proud to be a member of the Bradner, Ohio, community.

Immediately after World War II Cloyd Bugert and Louis G. DeBauche formed the Corporation to manufacture custom-made mechanical rubber products. Mr. Bugert, a registered industrial engineer, had experience in the rubber indsutry from Toledo Industrial Rubber and at Bowling Green Rubber Company since 1933. Mr. DeBauche, a chemical engineer, had prior experience at Toledo Industrial Rubber Company.

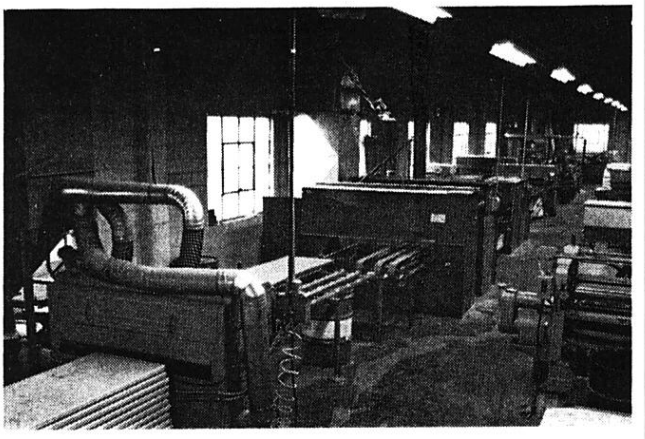
The company started business in an old store building in East Toledo. By 1947, expansion was necessary. At this time, there was a shortage of labor and available buildings in Toledo. A search into the environs seemed futile until a building was found in Bradner.



Ottawa Rubber Co.



Old light plant destroyed by fire in 1902



Industrial Dimensions, Inc.

Three enterprising gentlemen, interested in the development of Bradner, the Reverend Wm. F. Wiegman, Messrs. Eddie Dow and Ned Stiger, heard of the Ottawa Rubber Company's search and met with them to invite them to Bradner. These same gentlemen, from Bradner Mutual Enterprise, bought the Iron King building and leased it to the Ottawa Rubber Company with option to purchase. The company was pleased with the arrangement and moved its molding facilities to Bradner in August of 1947.

Originally we had about 4,000 square feet of area; today we have over 25,000 square feet. In the same period of time, the number of employees grew from ten to fifty-five.

The Ottawa Rubber Company manufactures a wide range of custom made mechanical rubber parts, principally molded. The products are sold all over the United States through direct sales out of the Toledo office, and also through seven sales representatives.

Since the company is a closely held corporation, expansion of the plant is limited as funds are derived only from profits after federal, state and local taxes, and borrowed money.

The growth of the company, although slow, is steady and certain. Even though the future outlook is difficult to determine, our past record indicates a steady growth, weathering the recession years. We hope not too distant in the future we will move our general offices to Bradner. Much can be said about the employes of the company. They are better than average workers and have been reliable and faithful over the past decades, sharing the difficulties and triumphs of the company.

EARLY SOCIAL LIFE

Life in Bradner was also developing on the social side, well-endowed with secret and benevolent societies. Some lasted longer than others.

Acme Lodge, No. 676, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was chartered May 16 and instituted July 18, 1878, with fourteen charter members, of whom Morris Reese was Noble Grand. The first members were C. Bryan, M. Ashley, W. Bell, G.W. Foster, W.C. Glover, Tobias Hanline, J.F. Hutchinson, Elverson Peoples, John Peoples, A.W. Reese, M. Reese, and S.W. Smead.

Alpha Rebekah Lodge, No. 170, was instituted, October 8, 1885, with the following charter members: W.B. Ayres, Hallie E. Ayres, Noble Grand, David Edmonds, Josephine Edmonds, A.B. McCreary, Sarah McCreary, Oscar Wollcott. The charter was given up in 1929.

Hamilton Post, No. 90, G.A.R., was chartered June 15, 1881, and named in honor of a soldier, who in 1861, enlisted and was wounded at Spottsylvania and died in 1872. The original members of the Post were Richard Angus, E.R. Beach, W. Crossman, H. Dobson, M. Eckert, E. Evans, George D. Evans, Wm. Entsminger, T.M. Hill, Caleb Minkler, J.Fry, J.S. Mahoney, J. Heath, J.W. Hoiles, J.F. Hutchinson, Wm. Gregg, E.A. James (C.D. James' father), J.M. James, J.M. Jones, W. Peterson, A. Shively, J. Timmons, C. Walters. E.A. James was the first commander and John Mahoney, first adjutant.

Hamilton Women's Relief Corps No. 250 is made up of the wives, daughters, and sisters of the members of Hamilton Post, G.A.R. Shuey Hive, No. 100, L.O.T.M. was chartered September 8, 1894, with Lucy Furste, L.C., and the following in Tent Rank: Carrie Lamb, Etta Graham, Ida Collins, Euna Morris, Anna Fowler, Ada McHenry, Blanche Rhoades, Adda Ladd, and Fannie Ladd.

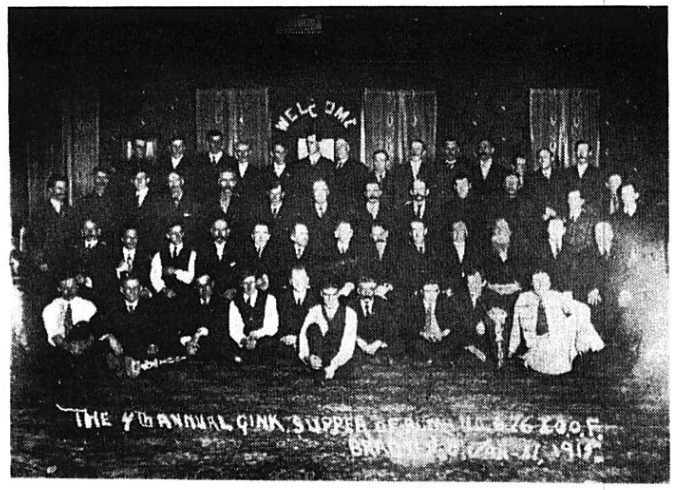
Bradner Tent, No. 119, K.O.T.M. was chartered December 13, 1892, with the following named officers in Tent Rank: C.E. Hyter, W.S. Morris, Wm. Clark, F.H. Lamb, Wm. White, Thomas Dailey, J.E. Furste, Charles Allen, Herbert Dewitt, Wm. Knowles, F. Sheffer, Wm. Daily, Frank Daily.

White Division, No. 5 U.R. K.O.T.M. was organized March 19, 1895, with F.B. Allen, M.H. Overocker, F.H. Lamb; C.E. Allen, Wm. Sommers, J.O. Wiles, E.T. Welsh, W. Gaines, Geo. McAlpine, R. DeBrant, E.A. North, M.P. Long, M.H. Murray, B.W. Graham, C.A. Herriff, John H. Lapp, Patsie Melchy, George Coyle-Past Captain; F.B. Allen-Captain; D.H. Runneals-Record Keeper; W. White-Finance Keeper.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized in May, 1895, with Mrs. F.H. Bowers-President; Mrs. F. Kirk, Vice President; Mrs. Beam, Secretary; Mrs. D.I. Delo, Superintendent; Mrs. A.L. Bordner, Mrs. M. Ashley, Mrs. E. James.

The Y.M.C.A. was organized in May, 1895, with F.H. Bowers, President; Rev. Sylvanus Haupert, Secretary; W.S. Frees, Treasurer. The Association's hall was in the second story of the old schoolhouse, used as the Presbyterian Church.

Bradner Lodge, No. 429, Knights of Pythias, was chartered May 8, 1890, with thirty-six members, namely: M.H. Brasher, C.L. Broyles, M.J. Cleary, T.J. Clements, C.E. Cornman, J.M. Cribbs, S.H. Curry, W.L. Dunn, G.W. Eckert, Martin Eckert, John Edmonds, David Edmonds, E. Evans, J.P. Evans, A.J. Fowler, M.M. Fowler, J.E. Furste, W.B. Gregg, B.F. Hart, H.G. Hartman, M. Hathaway, J.F. and J.V. Huffman, C.E. Hyter, J.E. Ladd, M.O. Ladd, V.B. Langell, W.G. Nichols, J.F. Nepton, J.J. Pratt, J.M. Stephens, A.A. Stump, T.J. Sulliva, R. Timms, G.W. Walters, J.W. Want, The office of Chancellor has been filled by W.G. Gregg and J.W. Wyant, 1890; J.E. Ladd, and J.E. Furste, 1891; C.E. Hyter and A.A. Stump, 1892; J.M. Cribbs and D.H. Youngs, 1893; G. W. Walters and J.V. Huffman, 1894; N.L. Covell and C. Broyles, 1895.



Annual Gink supper

Civil War vets

Ruth Arnold Temple No. 105, Rathbone Sisters was organized on April 7, 1897, with the following ladies as the first officers: Most Excellent Chief-Nellie Stump; Excellent Senior-Lena Conkle; Excellent Junior-Arminta Delo; Manager-Barbara North; Secretary-Maggie Stephens; Treasurer-Maggie Ladd; Protector-Jennie Hyter; Guard-Winnie Broyles; Past Chief-Addie Ladd. Amanda Schindler was the Grand Chief of the State of Ohio that year. Later on the organization became known as Pythian Sisters which is the ladies of the Knights of Pythias. Ruth Arnold Temple No. 106 Pythian Sisters, after 79 years in Bradner, merged with Petroleum Temple No. 513 of Wayne, Ohio January 1, 1976.

I.O.U.A.M. Council, No. 270 (Maccabees) was chartered May 4, 1892, with W.W. Stephens, N.J. Hartman, E.F. Huffman, John H. Williams; J.O. Ladd, J.L. Fleming; Fred Huffman, M.P. Colt, W. White, J.W. Meek, J.S. Newman.

Of these very early organizations, the Hamilton W.R.C. remains. They will mark their 89 birthday in June.

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS HAMILTON POST

The Woman's Relief Corps, a national organization, came into being during the Civil War, 1861-1865, and, after the rehabilitation, remained organized to become the Auxiliary to the Grand Army Republic, which represented the Union Army. The main objective was to perpetuate the principles of the G.A.R. which fought to keep this country "one nation with one flag."

Francis Bellamy was made chairman of the committee with several school superintendents to decide on a pledge to be used in all schools and gatherings. Mr. Bellamy said that it took him two hours to write, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation ("under God" has been added since) indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." In 1894, this pledge was adopted by the G.A.R. and the W.R.C.

The W.R.C. was incorporated by the State of Ohio in 1887. Hamilton Corps was organized on September 19, 1888, with 22 charter members. The Corps was named after George Hamilton, a Civil War veteran and father of the late Gail Hyter. Officers were President, Mary Hyter; Sr. Vice President, Sara Evans; Jr. Vice President, Martha Huffman; Treasurer, Ellen Ashley; Secretary, Rena Evans; Chaplain, Anna Kirk; Conductor, Hattie Huffman; Ass't. Conductor, Elizabeth James; Guard, Adda Ladd; Ass't. Guard, Ella Benton.

The meetings were held twice a month on Saturday afternoon in the old National Supply building, now Bragg Insurance Agency.

In 1898 the W.R.C. moved in with the G.A.R. and Sons of Union Veterans who met in a small building north of Stump Hardware, a few years later, we moved into the Grange Hall above Paul's Pro Hardware.

In 1932 we moved to the K of P Hall where we met the first and third Wednesday for 39 years.

We gave the American Legion the guns which the G.A.R. boys had used in their firing squad, and the money left in their treasury was given to help purchase one of the cannons.

On September 2, 1904, when the new school was completed, a celebration with a picnic and program under the auspices of the W.R.C. was held. The Corps presented a large flag to the school and it was raised on the new flag pole the Board of Education had purchased special. The Corps then presented smaller flags to each room, and we have continued this practice through the years.

In 1935, markers were procured to mark the graves of our veterans who had answered the last roll call and were buried in Bradner, Wayne, and New Rochester cemeteries.

Bradner's last Civil War veteran, Richard Smith, passed away November 11, 1933, and was laid to rest with full military honors. (See separate story.)

In 1938, the Jr. Corps was organized with Cora Goetz, Matilda Sworden, and Erma Keith as directors.

Much earlier the Corps had, under the leadership of Mrs. Iva Eckert and Mrs. Shreffler, organized a girls flag drill team for the G.A.R. for Decoration Day exercises.

Our organization is a firm defender of the Constitution of the United States of America and the preservation of history in its true form. The W.R.C. feels now, as ever, there is room for only one "ism" in the U.S.A. and that is Americanism.

In 1902, a resolution was passed in the National Organization that all members rise to their feet when the Star Spangled Banner is played or sung. Now, every patriotic citizen of the United States does this.

The Corps helps to support the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Home at Sandusky, and each year we take over 500 cancer pads, and hospital gowns, made from discarded men's white shirts by cutting out the sleeves and making round necks. We also help support the Xenia Home for orphans.

Left to right: Ruth Muir, Sada Linkenstine, Bessy North, Tessie Schroyer, Evelyn Miller, Stella Whistner, Nola Westerfield, Mrs. Eckert, Luretta Berridge, Mrs. Shreffler, Vera Thomas, Naomi Sage, Hazel Molter, Edith Coveny, Opal Eckert, Whistner, Maude Hartman, Mattie Furste, Minnie Evans, June Eckert, Bessie Shepler, Hildred Bryan, Madelyn Hyter, Gertie Blackman, Adda Logue, Garnet Langell, Pauline Black.

On August 6, 1936, Albert Woolson, the last Civil War veteran of the U.S.A. was laid to rest in Parkhill Cemetery, Duluth, Minnesota, and

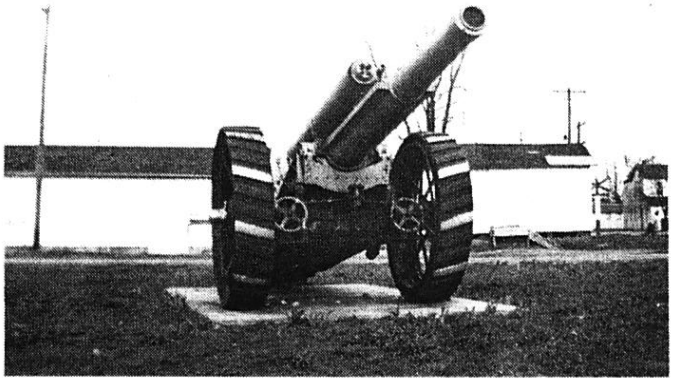
"They kept the stars in the filed of blue
They brought the States to allegiance true.
To them a Nation's debt is due,
And the Nation must never forget."

With a small beginning, the Corps enjoyed a steady growth for many years. Each year we hold a Washington Tea in February. Each year we make wreathes and sprays for on the graves and take part in the Decoration Day services. A great organization with a great motto: Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, the broad foundation of the Grand Army Republic.

ALBERT BOWE POST UNIT 338 AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Post, chartered on January 26, 1920, was named for the first WW I casualty from Bradner, Albert Bowe who was killed at Camp Perry. The first Commander was Walter Langell, and the first Adjutant was A.V. Youngs. The first home was the G.A.R. and Sons of Union Veterans Hall, a small building just north of Youngs Store, now Stump Hardware. The second home was the Grange Hall above the John Phister Hardware, now the Pro Hardware, on the west side of South Main.

In April, 1921, Congressman Begg introduced a number of bills during the opening of the 67th Congress, directing the Secretary of War to make available captured cannon or field pieces for towns in the 13 District, and Bradner Post acquired the English 155mm (less than 6") field artillery. It came in on the Hocking Valley Railroad out of Columbus, cost of $50.00.



Too heavy to move so we keep it

In the meantime, Bus Stiger had taken up a collection and purchased from the Village the little three-cornered lot west of the railroad formed by Plin Street, Lightner and 281, and deeded to the Legion. One commentator said that enough concrete was poured to hold up the whole Village of Bradner and half of the surrounding towns. Brough Stone Quarry donated the crushed stone for the foundation. Michael Stahl used his pulling machine equipment to transfer the cannon from the depot and set it on its base.

When WW II came along, the government collected cannon to be melted down. This piece was too heavy to move and cost too much for transportation so Bradner still has it.

Our second cannon was acquired after WW II--an American rubber-tired 75 mm (less than 3") Light Field Artillery out of Erie Ordnance Depot. Dewey Hockenberger picked up this piece in his truck. This now rests on the Legion Hall grounds.

The W.R.C. gave us the guns which the G.A.R. boys had used in their firing squad, and the money left in their treasury was also given to help purchase one of the cannons.

The Legion Auxiliary was chartered on April 23, 1924, with the following officers: Helen Clark, President; Elizabeth Keller, First Vice President; Ruth Ostrander, Secretary; Beryl Beatty, Treasurer; Minnie Clark, Sergeant at Arms; Lettie Keller, Pianist. The original charter listed fourteen members: Anna Mae Berridge, Helen Clark, Minnie E. Clark, Minnie Hutson, Ada K. Klingman, Mabel Klingman, Carrie Ostrander, Ruth Ostrander, Selma Ryder, Goldie H. Youngs, and Ida Youngs, all of Bradner; Elizabeth S. Keller and Lettie Keller of Helena; and Maggie E. Null of Fremont.

The original charter was lost, and the group received a second charter on April 4, 1925, with twenty members. During this year the Post & Auxiliary moved to the second floor of the Post Office in the Bryan Building. The Auxiliary worked with the Post in carrying out the activities with the disabled and veterans hospitals, sewing for the Red Cross, serving banquets, selling poppies, and programs recognizing Arbor Day, Armistice Day and Decoration Day.

In 1931, we purchased the Bradner Athletic Hall (formerly Leopold's Store) on West Crocker.

In 1932, the President, Bessie Coveney bought material and made the Post Flag and presented it to them in August. In 1934, the Unit Flag was made, and this banner and the American Flag were dedicated. (This brings to mind the other flag making in Civil War days.)

We have four Gold Star Mothers: Mrs. Leland Rath, Mrs. Charles (Gertrude) Lantz, Mrs. Ray (Dora) Keller, and Mrs. Delbert (Elizabeth) Warden. Our members are scattered, living in Fremont, Fostoria and Marion, besides Bradner, Ohio, and in Florida, California, Nevada, Illinois, Michigan and Mrs. Charles (Edna) Peterson who celebrated her 97th birthday February, 1976, now living in Hackettstown, New Jersey.

The building was fairly adequate until after World War II. Then to earn money, the groups had concession stands at the Bradner Firemen's yearly carnivals and homecomings. A lot was purchased on the south side of West Crocker across the railroad tracks. The new building was first started under Commander Robert Sams, and the interior was completed under Commander Robert Schell. The townspeople and businesses donated labor, and materials such as: floor tile, wall tile, neon sign, clock, and even credit was extended for plumbing supplies.

On December 28, 1960, the first meeting in the new hall was a combined meeting of the Legion members and the Auxiliary. The building has been done in two stages. The second was the large meeting hall to the west and many groups use the facilities. At the present time the Centennial Committee holds its planning sessions there. We carry on with the new Spirit of Faith, Freedom and Friendship in our Centennial year with a full staff of officers for 1976: Mrs. Glen Sworden, President; Mrs. Wilbur Graber, First Vice Pres.; Mrs. Verda Schell, Second Vice Pres.; Mrs. Duane Kern, Secretary; Mrs. Ralph Schell, Treasurer; Mrs. Opal Weller, Sergeant at Arms; Mrs. Warren Hathaway, Chaplain, Mrs. Cecil McCoy, Historian; Mrs. Lucille Molter, Americanism; Mrs. Treva Kuns, Children's Welfare; Mrs. Cecil McCoy, Community Service; Mrs. Duane Kern, Foreign Service; Mrs. Ralph Schell, Legislative, British Honduras, and Civil Defense. Mrs. Marjorie Youngs, Past President, installed the new officers.

On November 11, 1974, Veterans Day, we had our mortgage burning ceremony with Don Klingman, now of Fremont, having that honor. This was a very heart-warming occasion.

The Auxiliary has entertained Wood County Council, served luncheons and suppers for the Spanish American War Veterans, Alturian Club, Sorority Club, Pollyanna Club, wedding receptions, and actively supports the Girls State and Cub Scouts.

The Post sponsors Troup 343 of the Boy Scouts and Boys State, maintains a list of blood donors and blood types, makes available hospital equipment such as special beds, wheelchairs, and crutches. We have members on the Highway Patrol Auxiliary. On Decoration Day each year the Post and Auxiliary pay tribute to more than 200 veterans at the Bradner Cemetery where there are soldiers buried from every war that the United States has participated in starting with the Revolutionary War. A list of those war dead buried in Chestnut Ridge Cemetery follows.

This year the Post sponsored the contest for our Centennial logo for our Centennial coin, Angela Teeple's design was chosen. A picture of our coin is shown elsewhere in the book. We sponsored the Bicentennial Flag-raising Program and served refreshments at our hall after the ceremony held on Saturday, February 7, 1976.

The present Post Commander is M.C. Morrison and the Adjutant is Dorothy Bowers.

The following is a list of soldiers dead from the Revolutionary War, Mexican War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War and World Wars I and II buried in the Bradner Cemetery, both in Wood and Sandusky Counties as of January 1, 1948. Bradner Cemetery (Sandusky County) east side.

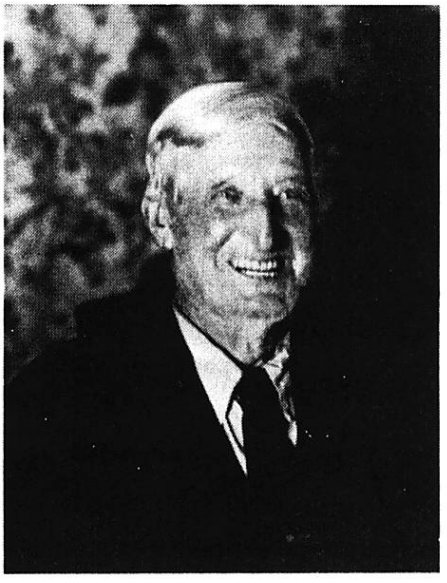
SOLDIER DEAD

Ables, Charles	Civil War
Ables, George	Civil War
Ables, William	War of 1812
Algyre, George W.	Civil War
Algyre, Henry D.	Civil War
Allen, Martin P.	Civil War
Angus, John W.	Civil War
Baughman, Samuel	Mexican War
Chamblin, George (Con)	Civil War
Chamblin, Nelson	War of 1812
Cordrey, William O.	Civil War
Cook, George	Mexican War
Dean, John	War of 1812
Decker, Absalom	Civil War
Eaton, Col. John	Civil War
Eckert, William	Civil War
Eckert, Robert Wm.	World War II
Entsminger, Isaac	Civil War
Evans, Benjamin D.	Civil War
Evans, Everett	Civil War
Evans, George D.	Civil War
Fitzgerald, George	Civil War
Gregg, Willam A.	Civil War
Kimble, William D.	Civil War
Ladd, Amos T.	Civil War
Ladd, J.M.	Civil War
Langell, Benjamin	Civil War
Leary, John	Civil War
Lemon, Floyd R.	World War II
Lightner, George	War of 1812
Lincoln, J.	War of 1812
Lowmaster, Isaiah	Civil War
Madden, Thomas	Civil War
Marsh, Lucius	Civil War
Mason, William T.	Civil War
McBurney, William	Revolutionary War
McCreary, Alfred B.	Civil War
McDaniels, Charles H.	Civil War
Mears, Nahum	Civil War
Mears, Thomas S.	Civil War
Mears, W.H.	Civil War
Miller, Peter S.	Civil War
Miller, Jacob	Civil War
Minkler, C.G.	Civil War
Morrison, James	Civil War
Morgan, Thomas	Civil War
O'Dell, Bennager	Civil War
O'Dell, Hiram	Civil War
Pember, Dallass	Civil War
Peoples, Jackson	Civil War
Price, Thomas	Civil War
Hamilton, George	War of 1812
Hathaway, Philip	Civil War
Herriff, Ansel L.	Civil War
Herriff, Alison W.	Civil War
Henline, Solomon	Civil War
Hill, Morris	Civil War
Holcomb, Johnson B.	Civil War
Huffman, Oliver P.	Civil War
Hutchinson, J.F.	Civil War
Hubbs, William C.	Civil War
Jackson, J.B.	Civil War
Jackson, Manning H.	Civil War
James, Bryan E.	Civil War
James, Ebenezer S.	Civil War
James, E.A.	Civil War
James, J.Y.	Civil War
Jay, Therman F.	World War I
Jennings, Joseph H.	Civil War
Jones, Benjamin	Civil War
Jones, James M.	Civil War
Jones, John	Civil War
Rees, John	Civil War
Rees, Evan	Civil War
Rees, Morris	Sivil War
Rife, Eli Vernon Rees	Civil War
Riley, James R.	Civil War
Roller, Henry	War of 1812
Schell, Jay	World War I
Schell, Peter	Civil War
Showalter, Wesley Allen	World War I
Shepler, Michael	Sp. American War
Shreffler, Conrad	War of 1812
Smeed, Charles F.	Civil War
Smeed, Jasper C.	Civil War
Smith, Richard	Civil War
Stahl, John	Civil War
Stahl, Godfrey	Civil War
Stanton, William S.	Civil War
Thompson, John Calvin	Civil War
Thompson, William	Civil War
Tillotson, James	Civil War
Vernon, Lotis	Civil War
Walters, Emanuel	Civil War
Walters, Michael S.	War of 1812
Whelan, Oliver P.	World War I

BRADNER CEMETERY (Wood County)

Ables, Pierson	Civil War
Anderson, William W.	Civil War
Baker, F.M.	Civil War
Baldwin, William S.	Civil War
Beach, Edwin R.	Civil War
Bierly, Cornelius	Civil War
Blackford, Joseph	Civil War
Bogan Sylvester	Civil War
Boster, Jesse	Sp. Amer. War
Bowe, Albert P.	World War I
Burkins, John H.	Civil War
Carsten, John F. A.	Civil War
Chronister, Amos	Civil War
Conklin, Isaac	Civil War
Correll, Oran W.	World War I
Cox, Sherman E.	World War I
Cox, William	Civil War
Cripliver, John W	Civil War
Crossman, William	Civil War
Dern, William C.	Civil War
Eckert, Charles W.	Sp. Amer. War
Eckert, Martin	Civil War
Entsminger, C. W.	Civil War
Entsminger, Stephen	Civil War
Entsminger, William	Civil War
Frees, William	Civil War
Goucher, Alvin	Civil War
Griswold, Orr	Sp. Amer. War
Hoxworth, Albert I.	World War I
Harpster, Jesse	Civil War
Hoiles, John	Civil War
Huffman, Daniel W.	Civil War
Huffman, Jacob F.	Civil War
Huffman, Paul H.	Civil War
Huffman, Stranton	Civil War
Johnson, Lee A.	World War I
Jones, Morris D.	Civil War
Keller, Glendale A.	World War II
Keller, Henry	Civil War
Keller, J.A.	Civil War
Keller, Louis H.	Civil War
Kirk, Freeman	Civil War
Lantz, Don E.	World War II
Leffingwell, Howard, Jr.	World War II
Matthews, William	Civil War
McNutt, Aaron D.	Civil war
Morgan, Arthur James	World War I
Munsel, Solomon J.	Civil War
Murray, Peter	Civil War
Parker, William	Civil War
Peterson, Truman	Civil War
Peterson, Wiley	Civil War
Phister, Jacob	Civil War
Plantz, Jacob	War of 1812
Plantz, Peter	Civil War
Plantz, Samuel C.	Civil War
Radebaugh, Will	Sp. Amer. War
Rhodes, Benjamin	Civil War
Riley, John W.	Civil War
Russell, Thomas N.	Civil War
Sharp, Christopher	Civil War
Shreffler, Conrad	Civil War
Shue, Phillip	War of 1812
Sloyer, Edward	Civil War
Smith, Orion	Civil War
Timmons, L.	Civil War
Welier, John A.	Civil War
Yarnell, John	Civil War
Youngs, David H.	Civil War
Zimmerla, Edward C.	Civil War
Zimmerla, James	Sp. Amer. War

Richard Smith is Called to Reward. Military Funeral for Bradner's Beloved Veteran Tuesday (from newspaper article)



Richard Smith

Richard Smith, the last Civil War veteran in this vicinity, has crossed the bar. A gre at character has faded over the distant horizon that divides the immortal from the mortal...

Mr. Smith was undoubtedly one of our most esteemed and widely known citizens. Born in England, August 8, 1844, he came with his parents to the United States when but 8 years old...He was raised in the environment of a righteous home, his father being a minister...

Services for the veteran were held in the M.E. Church, Rev. Don Cryer delivering the sermon. Following this the flag draped casket was removed to the foyer of the church where the hundreds of mourners viewed the body. The remains were then turned over to the Legionaires for military burial. The casket was placed on a caisson drawn by four horses. A long procession formed to follow the corpse to the cemetery. The march was headed by World War veterans, carrying the Stars and Stripes and emblem of the local Legion, followed by the carriage bearing the flag bound chest.

The National Guards from Fremont were next in order with members of the Albert Bowe Post completing the string. At the grave the National Guard unit fired a volley across the grave of Bradner's most illustrious citizen. Two buglers from a point far distant sounded taps as the casket was lowered into the tomb. Last respects had been paid to an aged gentleman that was loved by all who knew him.

Mr. Smith enlisted in the Civil War when but seventeen years old taking part in twenty-three battles and wounded once. He was for the most part of his life a farmer, an occupation from which he retired a few years ago. He died November 11, 1933, aged 89 years, 3 months, 3 days. All business places and schools were closed for the funeral.

BRADNER LIONS CLUB

The Bradner Lions Club was organized in 1950 and disbanded in 1962. Members consisted of the following:

Trontous Amos
Dale Adams
Wm. T. Bragg
William Berasky
William Nlanton
William Bryan
Harvey Blosser
Virgil Bowe
Ned Bowers
Ronald Bowers
R.A. Berridge
Bob Bowe
Burnell Cribbs
John J. Decker
Harold Dehnhoff
Ed Dow
Dr. H.S. Elliott
Harry Forreiter
Wayne Fisher
Robert D. Fairbanks
Charles Garey
Carl Garey
Elbert Goetz
Robert Gillespie
William Gries
Leo Gelske
Don Huffman
Don K. Hathaway
O.J. Hathaway
Carl Hutson
Robert Hiser
Dallas Keiser
George Klingman
James F. Lentz
Kenneth Long
Walter Merritt
M.C. Morrison
Jack Miller
Clayton McDole
Meryl Molter
Mike Miksel
Rev. H.D. Nothstine
Herbert Oehmke
Ted Ostrander
Charles Pierce
John Rojewski
Tom Rippon
Don B. Raths
Chas. L. Riley
Chester Morse Stiger
Glen Shepler
George Shearer
Robert Schell
Marvin Schultz
J.B. Smith
H.E. Snyder
Harold Sage
Roy Schnetzler
Wayne Schroyer
Dale R. Shedenhelm
Plin Smith
Virgil Smith
Glen Sworden Jr.
Arthur Sworden
Dale Stump
Richard G. Shepard
Chas. Sawyer
Ned Stiger
Robt. L. Sams
R. B. Sunderman
Rex Stump
Richard Teeple
Glenn Todd
Robert Waltermeyer
Cecil Wollam
Marion G. Warden
Jim Youngs
Henry Zinkiewicz

The Lions Club leased land from the Village of Bradner which was made into a park and playground. Through such fund raising activities as auctions, suppers, horse pulling contests, ice cream socials, minstrel shows, raffles and hockey games, club members were able to buy baseball equipment, drinking fountain heads and park furniture. The Lions Club installed park drainage, rest rooms, proper lighting and driveways.

Donations were made to the Police Fund, Cancer Society, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, to help buy Xmas gifts for children in the Detention Home and to the sight improvement program.

The Lions Club assisted many needy families with cash donations. It also paid for one Bradner girl's eye operation and bought glasses for those who couldn't buy them themselves. Our Lions Club also helped get a bank in Bradner and paid for street signs for our Village.

THE AMICUS CLUB

The Amicus Club of Bradner was organized in 1947, and became affiliated with the Lakeside Federation of Women's Clubs in 1949. Arleta Hutson was the organizing president. Charter members were Helen Brown Berridge, Mildred Speller Bowe, Helen Bryan Cribbs, Betty Wyatt Dow, Kathleen Hathaway Fisher, Nancy Frazier Garey, Arleta Cole Hutson, Christine Sage Ryder, Leona Fisher Smith, Francis Cribbs Stevens, Lois Bowers Stiger, and Freda Adkins Stump.

Through the years these have become active members: Lois Ann Youngs Adams, Helen Martin Errett, Gladys Bailey Fleury, Eleanor Faulkes Huffman, Eleanor Hathaway Kline, Doris Smith Molter, Vopal Hathaway Parsons, Gloria Weller Ault. Honorary members are Helen Berridge, Marry Ezzone, and Dorothy Jacobs. Three members are deceased: Arleta Cole Hutson, Mildred Rosendale Morrison, and Leontine Morrison Hall.

The purpose of the club is mutual improvement. An early interest and still our main outside interest is the Bradner Branch Library, a branch of the Wood County District Public Library of Bowling Green, Ohio. Through our efforts the library became a reality in 1949. Christine Ryder is our representative to the Library Board.

This Centennial Year our program theme is Colonial Times and the woman. Two customary events during the program year are to entertain our husbands at a steak barbecue and to remember our mothers and daughters with a special program and dinner during May.

4-H CLUB

The Lakota Lassies 4-H Club was organized in 1967 by Mrs. Von Bloom and Mrs. Virgil Allen.

The first club had forty members including the officers, Debby Allen, Kathy Bloom, Cathy Plouck, and Virginia Schroeder.

In County competition the club has received a banner twice for outstanding services, had a girl win a trophy and special award for her bicycling project. Four girls have placed in cooking projects, one in a sewing project, and one in a babysitting project. Besides these honors, the club has had a girl place in the safety speaking contest.

Each summer several girls attend 4-H Camp at Kelley's Island and participate in the County Style Review.

Each year the members display their projects in a booth in the Jr. Fair Building at the Wood County Fair.

Any girl in the community between the ages of nine and nineteen may become a member.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 343

Boy Scout Troop 343 was started in 1949 by the American Legion Post. Boy Scouting in Bradner had been started by Walter Langell and sponsored by the Methodist Church in 1920, thrived for several years and then ceased.

In October of 1949, R. J. Leffingwell began as the first scoutmaster with Harold Dehnhoff as Troop Committee Chairman.

In October, 1951, Cub Scout Pack 343 was started and sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. The first Cubmaster was George Snyder. Troop 343 and Pack 343 have kept in full swing since.

GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts are an active service organization in Bradner. In 1945 a group of volunteer mothers started the first Girl Scout Troops here. Mrs. Margaret Johnson was the area co-ordinator for Brownie and Junior Scouts. Others served as leaders, assistant leaders and troop committee members.

Then, as now, these volunteers dedicated themselves to helping girls develop character, conduct, patriotism, and service so that they might become happy and resourceful citizens.

Some service projects have been the Easter Egg Hunt, Town Triangle, Christmas display at the Town Triangle, and visiting the Wood County Home, Lucas County Children's Home, and Bowling Green Community Nursing Home.

There are three Girl Scout Troops in Bradner at the present time. Brownie Troop 543--Fran Teeple, Leader; Junior Troop 877--Penny Enright, Leader; Cadette Troop 777--Marilyn Stahl, Leader

BRADNER BRANCH LIBRARY

Early in 1948 the Amicus Club began negotiations to establish a library in Bradner.

Permission was first obtained from the library board of the Bowling Green school District Library to establish the Bradner Branch. Then there followed numerous meetings with the Wood County Tax Commissioners. The Amicus Club fought tooth and nail to get their consent, refusing to become discouraged. These determined women met the tax commissioners' resistance with such persistence that in the end they won out.

The front room across from the present Council room was first considered for the library, but it proved too small. The Amicus Club then obtained the use of the two former council rooms in the center of the Town Hall. The adult books were to be placed in the big room and the children's collection into the smaller room adjacent to this. But before the library could become a reality, much further effort on the part of the interested persons and organizations was necessary.

Council agreed to buy the lumber for the shelving. It was then up to the Advisory Board to collect donations with which to buy the furniture needed for the library. The cost of this was set for $250.00. A drive was organized to raise the money. The following people, businesses and organizations made contributions as follows:

Latter Day Saints Church	$15.00
Beta Sigma Phi	5.00
Jr. W.R.C. Girls	10.00
Am. Legion Aux. Post	10.00
Hugh Gilliland	5.00
Amicus Club	50.00
Methodist W.S.C.S.	10.00
Bradner Vol. Fire Dept.	25.00
Bradner Civic Club	65.00
Hamilton W.R.C.	10.00
Theta Beta Class	5.00
Past Presidents Club W.R.C.	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bowe	3.00
E.F. Dow	2.00
Ned Stiger	2.00
Nina Sanders	2.00
Frank Coveney	5.00
W.L. Bryan	10.00
Molter Grocery	10.00
Home Appliance Shop	5.00

Harold Stump Station	2.00
Cloyd Beair	2.00
Goldie Entsminger	1.00
Palmer Huffman	2.50
Charles Lantz	2.00
Alturian Club	$10.00
St. James Lutheran Church	25.00
Parker's Grocery	1.00
Batey's Market	1.00
Jack Miller	10.00
Bradner Cafe	5.00
Todd Studio	2.00
Adkins Sohio Service	5.00
Eleanor Hathaway	5.00
Ivy T. Hamilton	1.00
Clayton McDole	2.00
Korner Kupboard	10.00
Charles Riley	10.00
Harold Sage	10.00
Warden's Service Station	2.50
Force Dairy	5.00
Bradner Greenhouse	10.00
Smith Hatchery	5.00
Smith Shoe Repair	1.00
Leon Ruble	2.00
Stella Kosta Restaurant	2.00
Mother's Club	10.00
Pythian Sisters	5.00
Reginald Ryder	2.00
Mrs. Carl Hutson	2.00

Practically every family in Bradner had in some manner expressed a desire for establishing this Bradner Branch. It has the distinction of being the first such library in Wood County. Beyond the original contributions the library costs the Bradner residents nothing more. Funds authorized through the Bowling Green Library paid for the books, librarian's salary and general maintenance.

Ned Stiger and E.F. Dow assembled the shelving for the adult room. Shelving for the children's room was purchased and assembled at the start of the second year of operation.

The first Library Board consisted of the following members: Nina Sanders, Rev. W.F. Wiegman, Mrs. Arleta Hutson, E.F. Dow, Mrs. Idella Rojewski, Ned Stiger and Don Peoples. Others who deserve our thanks for having served on our Library Boards in the past are Mildred Morrison, Edna Pearl Bowers, Hazel Smith, Gladys Fleury, Rev. E.R. Stafford and Elbert Goetz.

Out of a list of five applicants, all from Bradner, the Bowling Green Library Board hired Henrietta Blessing Keller (Mrs. Merritt) as Bradner's librarian.

The Bradner Branch Library opened officially at 1:00 p.m. Saturday October 29th, 1949. Miss Helen Munsel of the Bowling Green Library Staff, was present all afternoon. The first patron of the library was Madge Kern. The library was open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings a total of twelve hours per week.

When Bradner Branch celebrated its first anniversary, more than 6,000 books had been issued during the year. There were 248 patrons registered. Its Library Board members at that time were Arleta Hutson, president; Rev. W.F. Wiegman, vice president; Ned Stiger, clerk; Robert Waltermeyer, secretary; Edward Dow, Hazel Smith and Pearl Bowers. More than one hundred people visited the Bradner Branch on October 28, 1950. Guests were served Halloween candies, punch and cup cakes by Mrs. Hazel Smith assisted by the Girl Scouts. Guests from Bowling Green were Dr. and Mrs. Walter Zaugg, Mrs. C.C. Kohl and Mrs. C.M. Haswell.

In 1951 the walls and woodwork in the two library rooms were painted. Shelving for the children's room was completed and a new asphalt tile floor was laid in both rooms. So the library had undergone a physical change while its use was reflected in the constantly increasing circulation.

Gifts of books were received constantly. In December 1952 we were given a collection of at least 1,000 books from Earl C. Bender of Wayne, Ohio This proved to be the largest single gift of books received.

Folding chairs for the children's room were received November 1953. These were put to extensive use when story hours were begun in 1971.

Mrs. Henrietta Keller resigned in 1951. Mrs. Mary Pearce (Mrs. Leon D.) was hired to replace her and began work in January 1952.

The Bradner Branch was first heated with a gas stove with a limited heating capacity. It was replaced with a furnace in 1952. Bowling Green Library paid for half the cost of this new and more adequate heating system.

The Amicus Club bought match-stick bamboo draperies for both rooms. These were installed by Harold Sage and his son Tom, assisted by Carl Hutson and Ned Stiger. They also paid for shelving which was set under the three windows in the adult room, giving the library more shelving space. These bookcases, built by Merritt Keller, had a slanting top shelf on which books and other materials could be displayed. These new additions helped make our library an increasingly pleasant facility.

Bradner Branch Library started with a modest collection of over 1,000 books. This grew each year until by January 1976 it housed over 8,000 books plus hundreds of magazines and pamphlets. The Bradner Branch is now open two evenings and three afternoons per week. Patrons now borrow records which were added in March 1971. Films and film-strips may also be borrowed from Main. During 1971 a story hour was started for grades one through six. It was held on Wednesday after school. The following year a pre-school story hour was added and held on Thursday morning. By 1976 delivery of new books, magazines, records and special requests for loans of materials from Main library is made each Tuesday. Services are constantly extended and increased, making our Bradner Branch Library a very effective community service.

The present Library Board serving since 1966 consists of Mrs. Christine Ryder, president; Mrs. Henrietta Keller, vice president; Mrs. Janice Stump, secretary; Rev. W.F. Wiegman, clerk, and Leila Smith.

Mary Pearce - Librarian

ALTURIAN CLUB

The Alturian Club was conceived October 1, 1921, by Leila Rozell Lee and Helen Clark in Leila's home. Those present as charter members were Leila Ryder, Helen Clark, Bessie Coveney, Helen Hiser, Goldie Youngs and Laura Bowers. After a discussion, the group decided to meet in two weeks inviting others to attend, limiting membership to sixteen. The Club meets the first and third Thursdays of each month from 2-4 p.m. starting in October and ending in May.

The following ladies accepted the invitation: Constance Gregg, Ada Klingman, Mary Lantz, Iris Foster, Edna Stump, Dora Keller, Arvilla Maurer, with Frankie Storms as an associate member. Helen Clark acted as President. We had no regular programs and no minutes are available from 1921-1923.

We used Roberts Rules of Order the next year and Arvilla Maurer was president. Edna Stump, secretary-treasurer, Goldie Youngs, vice president.

Through the years members have passed away or moved away and others have joined. Members have been Julia Blackman, Gertrude Lantz, Keitha Teeple, Elizabeth Warden, Glada Wirebaugh, Chloe Horner, Loleta Hiser, Minnie Fretter, Anna Rinebolt, Gloria Jackson, Martha Langell, Lucy Bowe, Lulu Stratton, Olive Ulrich, Laura Earlywine, Pauline Malehorn, Leila Smith, Hazel Bowers, Georgiabelle Berridge, Dorothy Kortier, Roxie Holcombe, Mildred Youngs, Leota Klingman, Hettie Mason, Maude Sage, Ella Morrison Verrienne Morrison, and Ella Schroyer.

The purpose of the Club was literary. We visited the library at Bowling Green and found our programs otherwise. In earlier years we were fined 35 cents if we did not have our programs, but in later years have not enforced this ruling.

The present members are Laura Bowers, Julia Blackman Ruth Dehnhoff, Dora Keller, Hettie Mason, Vera Morrison, Leila Smith, Edna Stump, Frankie Edmonds, and Mildred Youngs.

POLLYANNA CLUB

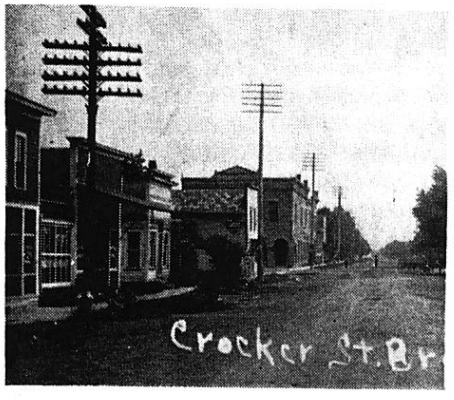
A secret pal group sounded like a fascinating idea to the members of the Women's Department of the local Reorganized Latter Day Saint Church. And so, in 1941, they drew names for secret pals. Rather than sign the cards, gifts, and other remembrances as "Secret Pal," they decided to use the name "Pollyanna."

The group had so much fun that others expressed the desire to join them. After a couple years, the group decided to form a community Pollyanna Club. They selected Idella Rojewski as the first president who served for twelve years. The current president is Becky Sworden.

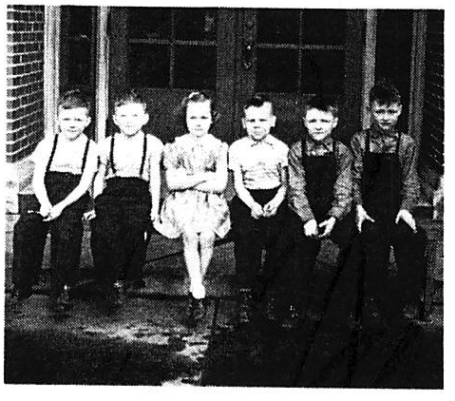
The membership is limited to twenty with names being approved by the entire body. It is strictly a social group, with no definite officers except the president and no dues.

The group meets four times a year: a Spring and Fall Birthday Party; a Mother's Day Banquet and a Christmas Party. Expenses are shared equally by the members.

Two members of the original group remain: Gladys Davis and Idella Rojewski. At the present time members are from Gibsonburg, Bowling Green, Fremont and Bradner. All that is required for membership is to enjoy good clean fun and a willingness to share it with others.



Crocker St. looking east



Ryder twins, Rentz twins, Herr twins

Bradner drug store

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KLEPPER'S OF TIFFIN, Tiffin

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES NO. 430, Fostoria

BEGINNINGS OF CIVIC LIFE

The original community, Mt. Prospect, grew up around the point where our first settlers paused before turning south from the trail at the junction of what is now Caldwell, North Main, and Church Streets. The little log church and the little log school, already mentioned, formed the nucleus for the little settlement. More settlers came.

The little log school took second place to a little white frame building closer to the road. Other buildings began to appear. Folk walked to Fremont and back for medicines or to Rollersville for groceries across fields and woods or rode horseback to Tiffin when there was no Bradner. At some point in time, a little store found its place on the northeast corner, lot No. 205, of Main and Caldwell. The school was transferred across Main Street and became a two-story frame building facing Church Street. The little log church disappeared and a more imposing M.P. Church more suitable to worship was erected in 1864 on lots 81 and 82 farther east where Caldwell intersects East Street still within sight of the business district. A little shop appeared across from the M.P. Church on the northwest corner. A house stood on lot 207 between the corner store and the little shop. Another little shop and a residence appeared on the northeast corner. Mail was brought in by horse from Montgomery Crossroads and later from Fremont when the eastern route was established. Folk stopped in the little shops for shoe repair and harness fittings, or to purchase a few commodities and to exchange a bit of news, or pick up the mail, if there was any.

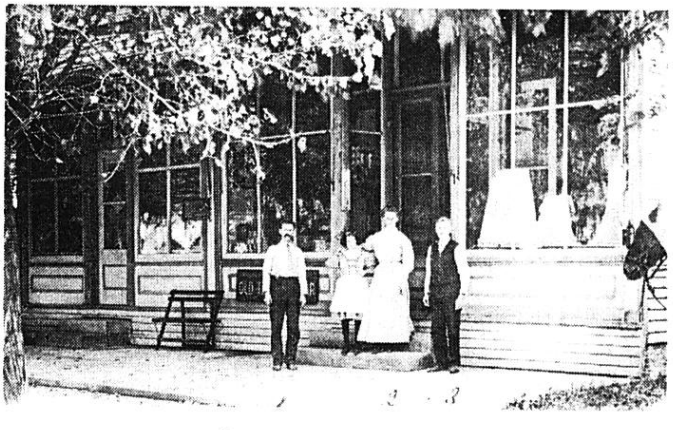
To six men, with the thought of forming just a little railroad town, and having not one idea that their little village would be the gateway to an oil field of greater area than that of Pennsylvania, belongs the honor of fixing Bradner on the map. John Bradner and Ross Crocker, both of Fostoria, and H.G. Caldwell, who resided in the vicinity, purchased 34 acres, had it surveyed late in December, 1875, and named it Bradner after the senior member. While this was going on, John H. Stephens, Charles Haynes Lightner, and Jacob Plantz had W. H. Wood, a very busy surveyor in the county at the time, lay out the Mt. Prospect addition which was acknowledged by them on February 7, 1876, and Bradner was recognized on that day as a village.

Let us pause a bit to check out some of the buildings in the early 1880's at the North end of the village. Sam Klotz ran the General Store (lot 205) on the Main Street corner. The Conleys (Jessie Cribb's parents) lived in the house on lot No. 207. A barbershop was in the next building on the corner. A shoe repair shop and the Schroyers lived across the street east. The Sam Klotz store was later owned by John Denny and was used as a recreation center with prize fights featuring Pete and Mace White, and wrestling matches featuring the sailor George Robinson; as a boys' club which Mr. Denny supplied with bats, balls, mitts and uniforms later it was used as a root cellar and storage by the Levi Baker family who lived just north. Sometime in the late teens Mr. Denny moved it to West Crocker where it stands today just west of Duane's Barber Shop. In its present location, this building has been a meat market, a grocery store, a general store, an office building and at present Mergenthsler apartments. It may be the oldest business place in Bradner.

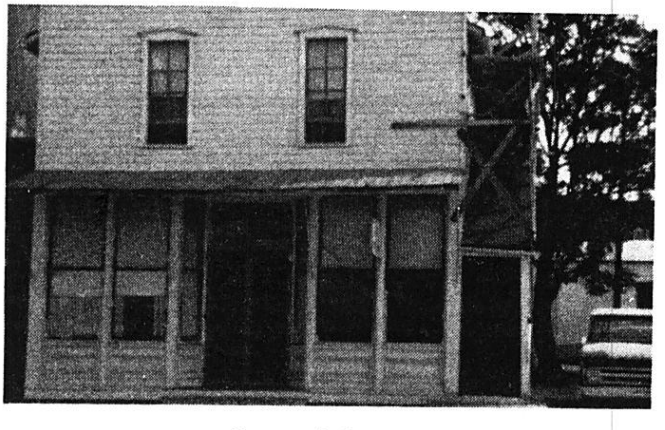
Now, back to the north end again. While the Conleys lived here, Ada was in the first grade at Prospect School across the

Hyter Hardware

Fair at Harpster's Grove (1892)



Rees General Store



Coveney's Store

street. She would run home crying every day and Pa would march her right back. Also, while they lived there the red brick school was built and she got to attend two schools in one year.

There was a rug weaving business in a building on the corner here the first log school was built.

Quite a struggle developed between the "north-enders" and the "south-enders" after the surveys. The first store to appear in the southend of town, as Main and Crocker streets were called, was that of Thomas Peterson. He had operated the store on Minkler's Corners, a mile east of Bradner. Thinking a move to his advantage, he brought his building to town. In 1876 H.G. Caldwell built the Bradner House on the Southeast corner. A man by the name of Bauer opened a regular old-fashioned apothecary shop in a building on the northwest side of Main (lot No. 55). It had no soda fountain, stationary display, or postcard rack, but devoted itself to the serious task of curing agues and similar ills. The man seemed not to have succeeded as he expected to, for one night about a year later, he attempted to burn the building and make his escape on a stolen horse. For these offenses he was tried and committed to the penitentary. The place was locked up for several months. Then J.F. Huffman bought the business (1877), and continued it for three years at that location, with his nephew, J.P. Evans, who came here from New Rochester to attend school and work part time in the store. In 1880 the two men became partners and built the structure on West Crocker known simply as The Drug Store.

Back to 1877 and the struggle for dominance. The Peterson Brothers built a grain elevator, and J.H. and D. Stephens took over the Peterson store on the corner. The post office was established in the store with T.H. Peterson as postmaster. H.G. Caldwell was appointed agent for the railroad and express companies, and Richard Abel took charge of the Bradner House. John Zeppernick moved in from New Rochester. Hill & Tuttle set up a boot and shoe store. Bradner & Mahoney built a grain elevator in 1880. In 1879 the red brick school was built half way between. That same year J.W.H. Smith & Co. established the Stave & Handle Factory employing 100 hands. This was located between Cherry Street (now West Caldwell), Plin, and Church Street, and Lightner west of the railroad where the light plant is now. Mr. Smith died in 1880, but the work was carried on until the fire in 1885 and it was never rebuilt. They manufactured wooden novelties, stepladders, clothes racks, axe handles, coat hangers and whatnots.

In some such factory Pa Conley was working upstairs and a young fellow by the name of Charlie Valley was down below. Pa heard a thump on the floor, where he was working, so hard that it raised the dust. He hurried down and found thatthe young chap had somehow gotten caught in the wheel and had been hurled with such force that he died instantly. The boy's father was notified and he kept crying and lamenting,"Here lies my son, but where is his soul?"

The "Northenders" became alarmed at their fading business; they went into a huddle, and figured they needed a hotel to draw the trade back to the northend. "All right," exclaimed Mr. Lightner, "I'll build one!" And the Exchange Hotel, or the Crystal Hotel, was built on a grand scale--the only three-story building the community has ever had with a lovely porch across the front and side "like a fairy tale," one little girl described it. The hotel flourished for a while, but business never came back and Mr. Lighner was financially ruined.

The fate ot the two school buildings has been related.

As mentioned, T.H. Peterson was the first postmaster; in 1881 Jacob Huffman was appointed and he moved the office from the Stephens store to the Drugstore. The office equipment was then small enough to occupy only one corner of the store. In 1885 J.H. Stephens was appointed and the office was again moved to the Stephens building until 1889, when Jacob Huffman again was commissioned and the post office again travelled to the Drugstore. In 1893 David Stephens took charge of the postoffice and it once more moved to the Stephens store. In 1901 the Stephens Brothers erected the brick block on the corner where their business was and Charles Hyter erected the smaller brick building just east of it. A small room was set aside for the post office on the south side facing Crocker where it stayed until it had far outgrown its space and William Bryan built the brick building which is the west side of the present postoffice, in 1922.

The front part of the Stephens store (from Minklers Corners) was moved across the railroad, butted against the side of the house already there to become the Thompson House. The rest of the building became the office at the lumber yard and burned down. (See the 1886 map of Bradner, just west of the Depot).

Thompson House

Evans Drug Store & Huffman Meat Market

Bradner Greenhouse

A Real Town

Now to return to 1889. As has been related, good wells were found on every hand. Derricks blossomed all around. Producers, contractors, drillers and other oil field employees and drifters and unsavory characters flocked to this new Eldorado. The supply of available homes and hotels was totally inadequate to house the surge of newcomers. The quiet little hamlet grew almost overnight into a bustling rowdy village. The population soared from 500 in 1887, to 1 625 census in 1890. It was said that the shortage of beds was so acute that they were rented in shifts, one man going to bed as the others were leaving for work--the beds never got cold. To share a bed with a worker on another shift and/or meals, the boarding house owners got $2.50 a week--thus enabling them to share in the oil riches.

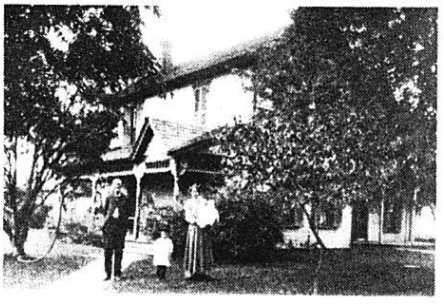
The Bradner Advocate, volume 15, number 2, Nov. 13, 1908, recorded that something like 75 new houses were erected in the year 1890 alone. The larger houses and buildings were built for Mrs. H. Ayres, A. Belknap, A. Bordner, W. Cribbs, John H. Denny, John Earnst, S.E. Entsminger, M.M. Fowler, Dr. Furste, Chester Hamilton, D. Hoiles, J.V. Huffman, E.A. James, M.O. Ladd, C. McCormick, Miniger's Livery, J.P. Raab, Raab & Thorn, N. Sloan, H. Waggoner, Welsh & Barringer, P.H. White, J.W. Wyant.

Each incoming train carried new faces into the rapidly expanding village, but workers were still behind demand. Everyone was busy. No one who cared to work was idle. Business was not confined to efforts of drilling oil, however. Merchants and other businesses were rushed to keep up with the increased trade. New business houses of all kinds were opened. Every man who could drive a nail was paid carpenter's wages. It was reported that over thirty houses were in the course of construction at one time. John Hosey, a bachelor, put up shacks for the families that came from the Pennsylvania oil fields--no lath, no plaster, just nailed together; unbleached muslin for wallpaper, and filled up Bell's addition. All east of Evans Street was farmland.

Foundries and machine shops, derricks and engine houses had sprung up everywhere--derricks and oil tanks so thick that it was said the squirrels played amongst them like trees. Rains made the streets one big mud hole. Oil men lined the board walks--so many people they overflowed into the streets, jostling each other. Saloons provided relaxation and refreshments when the oil men were not in bed or in their doghouses. A frenzied excitement gripped the little town. Street brawls, fights, brass knuckles, drunks in the gutter.

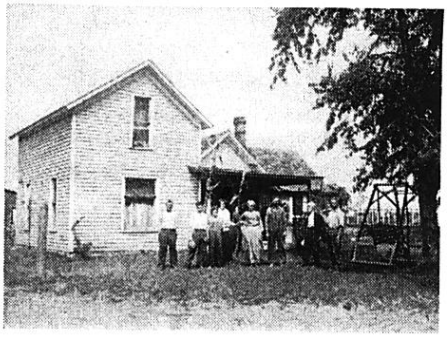
Concerned citizens knew that something had to be done, and done fast to exercise control, to bring order out of disorder, to restore a measure of peace.

Ashley Farm, W. Caldwell



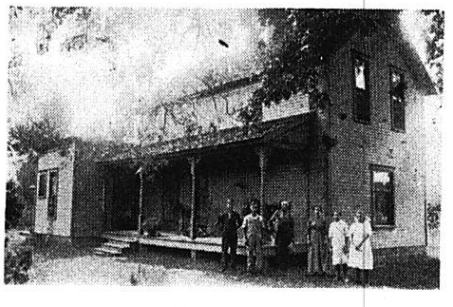
Kern House, E. Caldwell

Stump Home, E. Caldwell

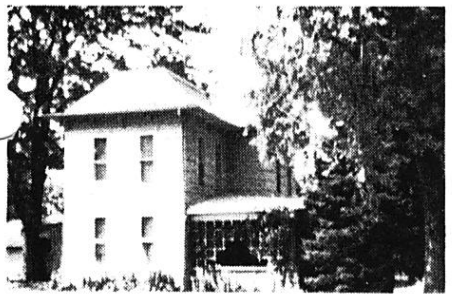


Hiser House, E. Caldwell

Beatty House, E. Caldwell



Arters House, Caldwell

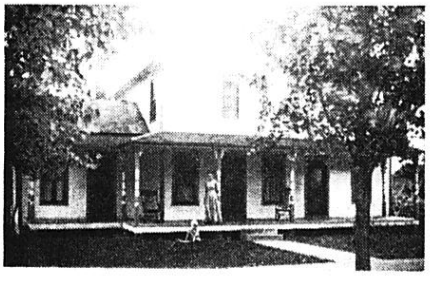


Fairbanks-Coveney, N. Main

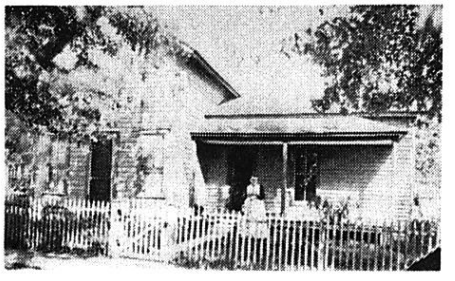
Dr. Furste Home, N. Main

James Home, N. Main

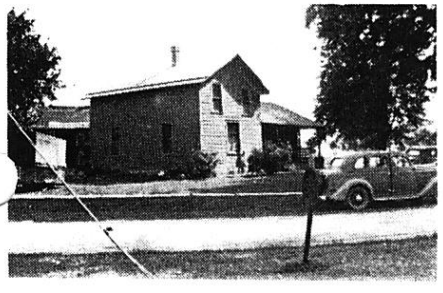
Force Home, N. Main



Ryder House, Stahl St.

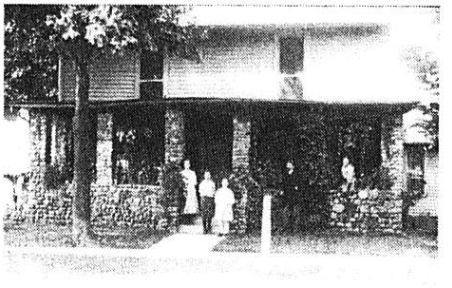


Conley House, W. Crocker



Entsminger House, Lightner

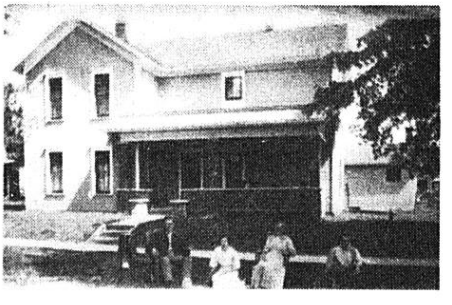
Hyter House (281)



Dr. Sprinkle Home, East & Crocker

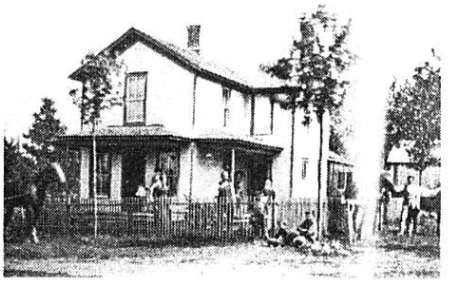
Schroyer House, N. East St.

Hathaway House, Stahl St.

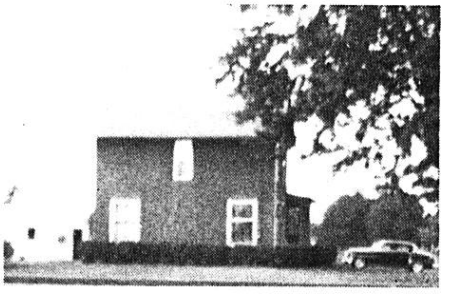


Blackman House, W. Crocker

Hyter Home, Bell St.



A.W. Rees Home, East & Lightner



Thompson House, W. Crocker

1890-1900

The first year of incorporation was a strenuous one taking its toll, for 1890 found Bradner with no less than four mayors and eight councilmen. On July 9, J.E. Furste, M.S., resigned and was replaced by David Edmonds who reigned as mayor until his resignation, August 6 (29 days). He was replaced by Silas Ralston August 9. By December 3, the mayor's office was again vacant due to the illness of Mr. Ralston. Mayor-elect (elections were held annually then) Nelson Wolcott was administered the oath of office on December 10 in his own home as he was bedfast at the time. Rumor has it and court records prove that he was a tough mayor and meant business.

Now back to the first council meeting of April 30 recorded by Clerk J.E. Ladd. After setting meeting dates and bonds, Council passed an ordinance to curb disorderly conduct, obscene and licentious language in public places, vagrancy and loitering, gaming of any kind anywhere in the village with intent to defraud. The second meeting, street peddlers, circuses, and showmen had to apply for licenses--fresh fish peddlers were exempt; owners of animals of any kind--horses, mules, etc. running at large were to be fined; specifications were set for board walks: "planks six feet wide built on three 3 x 4 stringers of Burr or White Oak of boards 8 inches wide of white oak or pine using 16 penny nails, no less than six nails per board, so lain that top parallels to and is six inches above grade of the street and built on a straight line with the street."

The third meeting levied taxes for municipal purposes. The fourth prohibited Sunday opening of saloons. Other interesting activities of this turbulent first year were the building of a jail 14 x 22 x 8½ with the contract awarded to P.C. Clay, low bid $264.00 (materials $224.00, labor $40.00 ; trains blocking the crossings no longer than five minutes (this was enforced once, according to court reports, resulting in the H V Company's apology and promise not to let it happen again); the Ohio Oil Company was given the franchise to furnish gas for heating, lighting and cooking, and permitted to bury their mains and pipes in streets and alleys, resulting in complaints about open troughs and mud and uneven ground.

1891. Brought complaints about trees in sidewalks; an ordinance requiring all saloons to remove all curtains and all obstructions from their windows and glass doors that passersby might see in (court records prove that this was enforced); complaints of oil spills in ditches and drains were investigated. A Board of Health was appointed; noxious ordors from garbage in the streets and back of buildings, filth from slaughter houses, stagnant waters were investigated and fines were assessed if continued. Driving herds of animals through the streets not hitched to wagons was prohibited. (This writer remembers that droves of sheep were herded past her home on the way to market.)

1892. The problem of suitable sewers--records reflect that on the Beach sewer project first estimates were for 8" tile to cost $44.66 per thousand and the labor at 25 cents per rod; the Silverwood Ditch was also a concern. During this year the value of industrial development was recognized. (See Industrial Development) The last act of 1892 gave the clerk instructions to contact suitable firms and obtain some figures on street lighting. Some interesting figures: 50 cents a day for teaming; 50 cents a day for cutting weeds and thistles; 30 cents bought a broom.

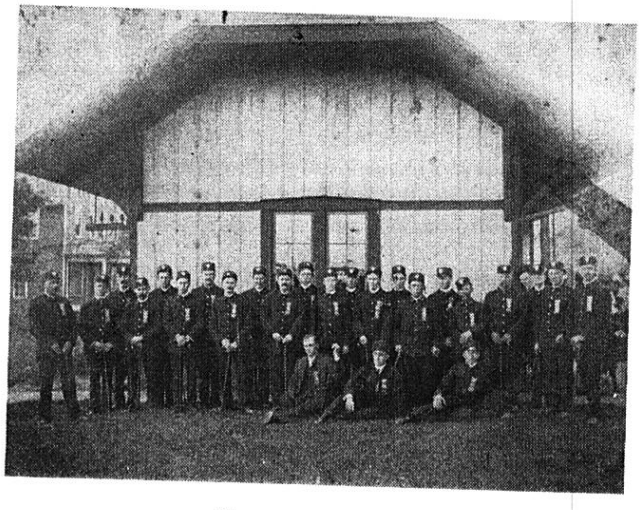
1893. Special election to build new school--79 votes for, 35 against; all male citizens to help on streets or pay $3.00 a year to the village treasury; a Fourth of July celebration with licenses required for stands on the streets; council voted to

North Main looking south

investigate the matter of a town hall; muzzling of dogs runnin loose; fire protection was discussed but no action was taken There was one tragic event that climaxed the year--o November 9 about supper time a wreck on the Hocking Valley just a mile south of town. (See Railroads) In June a majo economic depression began as prices on the New York Stock Exchange collapsed. Some seventy-five railroads declared bankruptcy before the year was over.

1894. "Dogs are thicker in town than boys around a band wagon." A comedy held forth in Crystal Hall for three nights but not too well attended. A copper box containing the remains of the contents of the cornerstone of the old courthouse built in 1868 and dismantled December 21, 1893, together with copies of newspapers among which is the Bradner News and a plate bearing the names Grover Cleveland, President; McKinley, Governor of Ohio was placed with great ceremoney within the cornerstone of the present Wood County Courthouse.

On February 7, the fire laddies organized and presented to Council the following: "We the undersigned hereby offer our services for the object of forming a fire company," and were approved by Council. Fire protection was well on its way. A tank was sunk on N. Main Street 50 feet deep. John Hosey was awarded the contract to build a water tank and trestle on lot No. 66 back of the present skating rink. He had difficulties. The tank fell apart and had to be rebuilt. His bill was $481.19.



Firemen in 1910

Council deducted $126 and paid $300.00 and retained $55.19 until such time as it proved satisfactory. Luke Entsminger, Mike McNulty, and John Stockwell painted the engine house for $7.00. The town purchased a windmill from Heller, Allen & Co. of Napoleon for $126.50. Congress declared Labor Day, the first Monday of September, a holiday for federal employ ees.

1895. There was trouble with the boiler in the engine house and after some debate with the Buckeye Supply Co., it was replaced by one from Bradner Supply Co. The water line project was pushed through in haste. A suitable place for refuse disposal was needed. The health officer was vested with full power to enter all homes with diphtheria, scarlet fever, small pox, typhoid fever and any other contagious diseases. Homes were quarantined. A curfew was put into effect. Special night watchmen were appointed.

In 1895 J.F. Huffman and John Earnst erected the two-story brick block on S. Main Street, north of the Advocate office which cost $7,000, the first brick business block. The Globe Building and Loan Association was organized in December 1894. (See Banking in Bradner.)

1896. Opened with no money to pay bills. April election: W.G. Gregg, Mayor; for the water works 116; opposed 13; for the town hall 105; opposed 18; a Board of Water Works Trustees was appointed: J.J. Cribbs, H.C. Ahlf, and W.B. McCormick. Water Works Bond Issue for $4,000; Town Hall for $2,000.

1897. A big fire on May 1, Saturday, wiped out the south side of West Crocker from Main to J.P. Evans Drug Store: The Advocate article on the following page describes what happened.

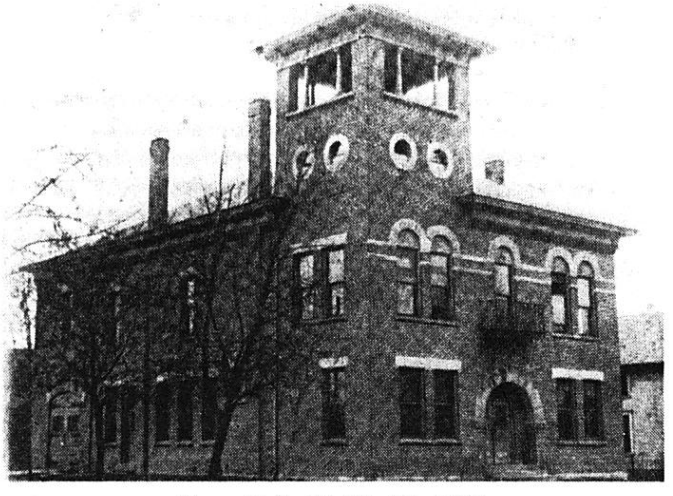
Council extended thanks to the fireladdies of Bradner, Fostoria and Toledo. The Board of Education requested stone crossings at the end of Bell Street across Lightner to the school grounds. Flagstone walks were specified for the downtown area and elsewhere. Had to borrow money until tax monies came.

1898. Sewer drain installed in east end. On August 31, Council gave Central Union Telephone Co. the right to place and maintain poles, wires and fixtures necessary for supplying telephone service, provided that at no time shall public highways be obstructed for travel. The first action against the village occurred in November when A.C. Lyon presented a petition in the amount of $5,000, praying for damages for injuries received from falling on sidewalk. Population count 1,663.

1899. J.W. Stiger was awarded the contract to construct town hall on a bid of $5,130. Changes made in the front of the building cost an additional $165. 440 opera chairs were purchased for $700. Fixed rent for rooms assigned as offices at $75.00 per year. The Toledo, Fostoria, & Findlay was granted right of way.

1900. The old jail was moved. Furnace purchased for $150.00. Sept. 6, Ordinance to preserve order on the Sabbath Day be amended to read as follows: "That it shall be unlawful for any person, corp., partnership, or firm being the owners or occupant of any shop, store, grocery, booth or other place of business by himself or agent to open the same for the purpose of business on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, or to do or to perform any labor or transact any business in such place or places commonly carried on on other days of the week, provided that this section shall not be construed as to render it unlawful for any tavern keeper to entertain travelers or for druggists to make up prescriptions and receive pay that day, nor shall the ordinance be construed to extend to those who observe the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath Day, nor to prevent or restrict any work of necessity or charity being performed in such places on Sunday."

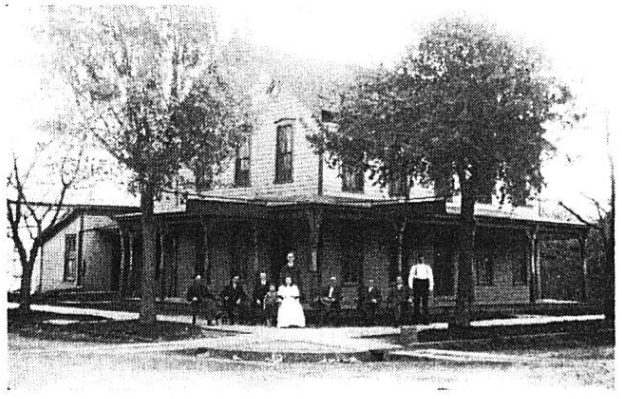
Town Hall under construction



Town Hall - Finished in 1899

The little village had come a long way in eleven years. The following Mayors have served through the years:

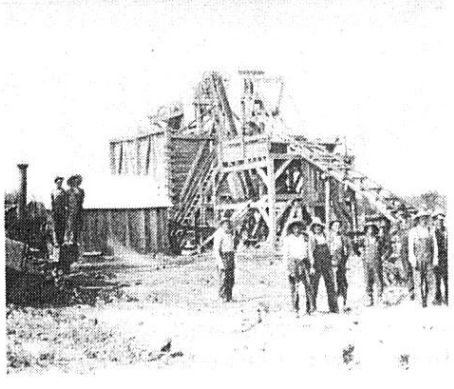
J.E. Furste	1890	Dr. A.P. Black	1916-18
David Edmonds	1890	H.R. Kortier	1919
Silas Ralston	1890	J.A. Shirk	1920-24
Nelson Wolcott	1890-91	L.C. Clark	1921-24
Nelson Wolcott	1891	S.H. Teeple	1925-27
John S. Ashbrook	1892	J.W. Stiger	1928-29
A.P. McNutt	1893	E.T. Mason	1930
Nelson Wolcott	1893	S.H. Teeple	1931-35
A.A. Stump	1894	A.A. Stump	1936-37
W.B. Gregg	1895-96	S.G. Sommer	1938-39
O.W. Delo	1897	Howard Bowman	1940-41
W.B. Gregg	1898	S.H. Teeple	1942-47
H.C. Ahlf	1898	N.A. Hunt	1947-49
H.C. Ahlf	1898-1900	Virgil Bowe	1950-59
F. Kirk	1900-01	Glen Sworden	1960-61
Dan Stahl	1902-05	Gale Lawrence	1962-63
Chas. Eckert	1906-07	Carl Mason	1963
John H. Denny	1907-08	Glen Sworden	1964
O.J. Mitchell	1909-11	Carl Mason	1964-65
J.W. Stiger	1912-13	Don Graber	1966-71
O.J. Mitchell	1909-11	James B. Smith	1972--



Bradner Hotel

Near Hiser's Quarry - 1906

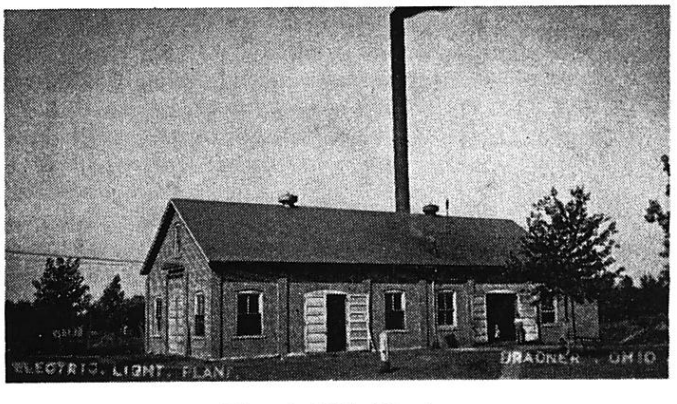
Meat Market - 1916



At Hiser's Quarry

Parker Store

Stephens & Hyter Block -1901



Electric Light Plant

Riley Store

THE PRESS

One day late in the fall of 1890, a stranger rode in to the city and gave his name as George W. Grames. Before he had been in Bradner long, he declared the urgent need of this bustling community was a local newspaper. Accordingly, he equipped a plant and on December 20, 1890, with the help of O. Newt Forbush as the printer's devil, appeared the intoductory issue of Bradner's first newspaper--The Daily Graphic. This first issue was alive to community interests, carrying lodge announcements and church bulletins, local items, and a goodly amount of Bradner advertising. The heading reads: "Devoted to the Interests of Bradner First, Last, and All the Time."

The Daily Graphic was issued each afternoon of the week except Mondays and delivered to the residence for six cents a week. Newt Forbush's duties consisted not only of setting type, but operating the press, selling the papers on the street, splitting kindling and keeping the wood boxes filled both at the office and at the publisher's home.

The Bradner News was issued by A.C. Gorsuch after the Graphic ceased publication. An 1893 copy was made available to this writer. The front page of the September 28, 1893, issue contains the obituary of Adelia Harpster who died September 21, 1893, aged 75 years. She was the mother of Mrs. James (Hannah) Tillotson. (Ella Schroyer's mother)

The Christian Endeavor Society of the M.P. Church was having an entertainment on Saturday October 9. Charles W. Lee was the president. Others on the program were Eva Simmons, A.E. Lloyd, Clara Edmonds, Leila Forbush, Vergie Bryan, Maggie Stephens, ladies quartet: Lulu and Dot Ashley, Jennie and Pearl Kirk.

Wyant and Evans were selling dress ginghams 8-10 cents a yard; flour at 80 cents a sack; good working pants 98 cents; shirts 25 cents and up. Youngs Bros. bakery fresh baked goods, groceries, meats, fresh fruits, tobacco. Rev. Strowman was pastor of the EV Church, Rev. Shreeves of the Methodist, Rev. A.P. McNutt pastor of the MP Church which was having preaching only every other Sunday. All three held prayer meetings every week. Jas. P. Evans advertised Ayer's Hair Vigor.

The Bradner Advocate was founded October 26, 1894. by D.H. Runneals, as an independent weekly journal. He bought the material new, and made The Advocate worthy of the prosperity it had won even before Volume II was commenced in October, 1895. The office was on South Main on the ground floor. F.W. Parmalee was publisher in 1905. James and Calvin were the publishers in 1908-09. William Somers, 1910; Elam Maurer 1911-1919; H.L. Hodges 1919-1926 and later; Glen Coots 1926-57. D. Dean Roach was editor of The Observer-Advocate in 1955. The Observer-Advocate was discontinued in the mid-1950's.

DAILY GRAPHIC.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BRADNER FIRST, LAST AND ALL THE TIME.

VOL. I. BRADNER, O., SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1891. NO. 17.

THE GRAPHIC.

GEO. W. GRAMES,
Editor and Proprietor.

THE DAILY GRAPHIC is published every morning in the year, Monday excepted, and delivered in Bradner and all the surrounding towns at six cents per week.

JOTTINGS.

Local Items will be thankfully received from our friends and patrons. If you hear of anything in this line please report the same to us.

—J. J. Jenning was in town yesterday on business.

—Messrs. Marsh and Graham was in town on business yesterday.

—Talmadge's sermons will be published in the SUNDAY GRAPHIC. Chapter IV of "The Pioneers" will also appear to-morrow.

—Bradner Council, No. 53, Order of Chosen Friends, elected ten candidates last night and initiated six, two of whom were ladies; ye editor was one of the candidates.

EXPLOSION.

NITRO GLYCERINE IN BRADNER

GREAT DAMAGE DONE

Just after two o'clock yesterday an explosion occurred, which shook our village to the foundation. Everybody rushed out of doors, thinking their houses were tumbling down on their heads. In a few moments smoke could be seen rising from the tree tops in the direction of the magazine, situ-

FROM YESTERDAY'S 2nd ED.

VILLAGE AND OTHER ITEMS.

—W. B. Nolan was in town to-day.

Rooms to rent at John Edmonds'.

Mrs. J. J. Pratte does dressmaking.

Boys' boots at cost. Wyant & Evans.

Handbills printed cheap at this office.

Hand-sewed shoes $5.00. Wyant & Evans.

—Adam Britch was in Toledo yesterday.

Mince meat at Young Bros.' meat market.

Fresh sausage to-day at Beck's meat market.

Go to A. E. Miller for boot and shoe repairing.

Fresh bologna to-day made at Beck's meat market.

—The GRAPHIC circulates regularly in thirteen States.

—Editor Grames was in Toledo buying stock to-day.

—Mayor Wolcott and wife went to Toledo this morning.

—Mr. Davis, of Chicago, was in town to-day on business.

—Miss Maggie Cook [illegible]

—Lots of teams in town to-day, Makes the merchants very gay.

For sale: House and lot in the Bell addition. Also vacant lots. A. C. Lloyd.

—G. H. Benton, of Henry county, visited his brother, A. E. Benton, Thursday.

CHRISTMAS IS PAST

and now our winter goods must go to make room for our elegant spring stock, which will be crowding itself in on us early. Those desiring cheap Clothing would do well to call and get our reduced prices. Resp'y,

R. WOLFSON.

Branch Store 202 N. Main st., oria.

J. FAULHABER & CO.

Bradner,

—You [illegible] putting up [illegible]

—Pet[illegible]er is rejoicing over b[illegible] company, of pa[illegible]

—Mrs. E. James is on the sick list.

—The shock from the glycerine explosion was felt at Bryan, Monroe, Mich., and other places within a dis-

THE ADVOCATE.

VOLUME III. BRADNER, OHIO, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1897. NUMBER 29

CAHILL, THE BARBER.
Shaving, Hair Cutting, Shampooing by First class Workmen.
Shop North Main Street, Bradner.

Have your Shoes fitted with this Lace Fastener at MARTIN'S SHOE SHOP.

DR MANN,
DENTIST.
IN BRADNER EVERY WEDNESDAY with Dr. Furste.

CITY DRAY LINE,
HOLLIS HAFF. Proprietor.
BRADNER, OHIO.
All orders left at Berlin's harness shop will receive prompt attention.

THOMAS J. WALSH,
Boiler Maker.
Tank Stills, Smoke Stacks and General Boiler Work, Flue Welding, &c.
Shop North of Depot, Bradner, O., and in East Toledo

A. SCHARF & SONS,
Proprietors of
Bradner Meat Market.
BRADNER, OHIO.
Porterhouse, Surloin and Round Steak, Pork Chops, Veal, Mutton Chops, Sausage, Bolegna, &c. &c. Nothing but first-class stock killed. Game and Fish in season. Highest market prices paid for Poultry.
GIVE US A TRIAL AND BE CONVINCED.

NEW TAILOR SHOP.
Now is your chance to have
CLOTH AND FUR WORK
Done at my very Lowest Figures, lower than any other city, with a guarantee of all work done in the latest style by a workman of twenty years experience
Special Attention given to Cleaning and Repairing.
ANTHONY DANIELS,
Merchant Tailor,
Farrow Building, Crocker Street, Bradner.

THE BRADNER SUPPLY CO.,
BRADNER, OHIO.
Exclusive General Ohio Agents
FOR THE
...AJAX
Engines

THE FIRE!

Property Consumed to the Amount of $12,000.

No Insurance to Speak Of. --Could Be Worse.

An alarm of fire was pealed forth last Saturday night at 9:30 o'clock and upon investigation it was found that a fire had started in the John C. Sheets livery stable on West Crocker street. It being quite early in the evening, Mr. Sheets and several others were in the office of the barn when they heard a snapping and cracking like that of fire. It seemed to be on the east side of the building upstairs over the American Glycerine Company's office in the mow. No time was lost by all hands present and in a few minutes the entire contents of the barn, together with the horses were out of danger.

The fire soon spread to the adjoining buildings on both sides and the crowd of citizens increased and all worked to get out the contents of the other burning buildings. The fire deprtment was soon on the scen and the old hand engine was gotten into operation and did splendid work until the pumps at the water works station could be gotten to work. The tank supplied water for the hand engine in the meantime. When the pumps were started they surprised the most sanguine. They went beyond the expectation of all in supplying water and the only thing needed at that time was hose, as the department only had four hundred feet and the high pressure of the pump soon bursted two joints of this. The department, however, did all that any department could have done, kept the fire confined to the burning buildings. The boys were under charge of Joseph Speigel, an old fire fighter, and they did nobly and deserve credit for the manner in which they worked. At one time the Bradner House was threatened as the wind was in that direction and it took plenty of water and hard work to save it. The buildings on the North side of Crocker street came near burning, also, and it was very fortunate for them that the wind was from the northwest and only blowing slightly. The loss to property is something near $12,000 and divided in about the following proportions: Egan & Bissell lost their building, consisting of two rooms. They saved their fixtures.

S. W. Shirk, who occupied one of their rooms a a rresturant and the upper rooms as sleeping rooms for their boarders, lost about $500 in the way of household good, etc. He had no insurance and his loss is total. He is a poor man and will be compelled to start over again in life.

Thos. Miller, who lived with Mr. Shirk, saved about all his furnature. The women folks, however, got out without their shoes on, as they were getting ready for bed.

John C. Sheets will loose about $50 in grain, etc., and the building, which he places at from $500 to $700.

Oliver Harris' loss is placed at between $3.500 and $4.000 which is accounted for in buildings and stock. A portion of his household goods were saved but are badly damaged. He met with the same fate as did Egan & Bissell in having his goods stolen after being taken from the fire.

The American Glycerine Co., practically looses nothing, as they only had desk room in the building.

The Ohio and Indiana Torpedo Company loose about $300 worth of shells and anchor. They were stored in the stables.

The building occupied by B. A. White & Co. with their grocery on the north side of the street was damaged to the extent of $25. Covered by insurance.

The Jarecki M'f'g Co., Limited, lost the entire stock and building on the west side of Main street and directly south of the Egan & Bissell building. It was insured, but the exact amount we are unable to say.

J. W. Huffman's brick block was danaged slightly, the window frames and glass being scorched and broken The damage will not exceed $15. He has no insurance.

J. P. Evans, anticipating his building burning, had all his goods moved therefrom. They were piled in the depot, street and everywhere anyway to get them out of the building. His stock is greatly damaged. The extent of which has not been determined, but may reach $500. A goodly amount of this stock was also carried away by—you may call them thieves—persons who had no personal right to them. We believe the above is a very conservative estimate of the amount of damage and loss. Of course when you add to this the fact that these gentlemen will be out of business for a while will also be a big loss to them. It could be worse had it not have been for the continuous rains of Friday and Saturday it would have been a sorrowful looking town Sunday morning.

The Jarecki Co., have a night-watch since the fire.

The burnt dsstrict will undoubtedly be rebuilt with brick.

Wonder where Evans' hanging lamps went to? Can any one tell?

There were many drunks after the fire and some a little before the fire was out.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. The recent fire has made much labor.

J. H. Lapp's house one square away ct ught fire twice, but John was on han with water and put it out.

It is a shame that people had to steal that which was saved from the fire. It did not show good breeding.

The only loss attributed to the fire that cannot be rebuilt or replaced is the life of Mrs. Simon Welsh

Egan & Bissell built a frame building for temporary purposes until they decide how and what to build.

Some women helped themselves to bottled goods as freely as did the men. They were not very sly at it either.

Hollis Haffs' barn caught from flying pieces of fire but it was discovered before any particular damage was done.

People on Main street could have put their hose on the street connections and done some effective work, but they didn't.

Oliver Harris has had a frame building erected to be used for his saloon until he can arrange for a brick. It will afterwards pe used for an ice house.

Risingsun was well represented at the fire. Rumor has it that they helped all they could to dispose of the wet goods from the saloons. Fostoria and Freeport did the same.

The chief of the Fostoria fire department said that the Bradner Fire company had done all that could possibly have have been done in savin propertp. That is a good recommendation coming from such good authority.

The Fostoria department had with them about a thousand feet of hose, two carts and one steam engine. In loading at Fostoria they had a little misfortune that might have resulted seriously. The ropes used in loading the engine broke and let the engine back on the ground, but fortunately no one was under the wheels. They did not unload here as the fire was under control.

One of the companies who has insurance on J. P. Evans stock was in town Wednesday and looked his stock over and instructed him to go ahead and put his stock in shape and find out his loss and they would be

Hiser delivery wagon

BRADNER GREENHOUSE

The Adrian A. Hiser family moved to Bradner in 1897, and starting with just a small hot bed, operated the Walnut, Garden and Fruit Farm. In 1904 they built the first greenhouse. In 1914 a better structure was built which included an office. His helpers were Charles Benham, Ira Dern, and son Claude, who later received the Carneigie Medal for saving the life of a railroad man who, thinking to take a quick bath in a shallow pool, had jumped into the stone quarry.

The Greenhouse burned on Christmas morning, 1921. At 1:30 a.m. Mr. Hiser had tended the fire. At 4:30 a neighbor a block and a half away saw the flames and roused the family. By that time the furnace and the storeroom at the north end were falling in. About twenty feet of glass and part of the greenhouse were destroyed and the heating system was badly damaged. All plants and the carnations were either killed by smoke or frozen. Stock loss was total.

The fire department arrived about a half hour after the alarm was turned in. They were able to put out the fire in the coal pit and only a small part of the coal was burned. The house and barn roofs were coated with ice so nothing caught from the fire. Mr. Hiser had built up a large business in the twenty-four years both in vegetable, bedding plants and floral work. This writer loved to walk through the glass houses among the carnations, and the mums in season.

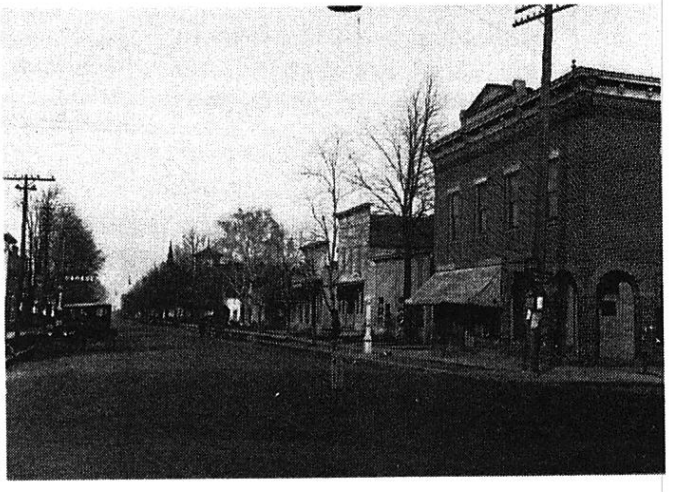
A leanto was added to the east in 1928. Another fire in 1944 again caused extensive damage. The leanto was raised to make a full house, and a propagating house was added across the back. Because of A.A. Hiser's poor health, his son Ralph purchased the business in 1933, having managed it since 1920. Due to an accident to Mr. Hiser, the Greenhouse closed its doors January 21, 1971.

1900-1910

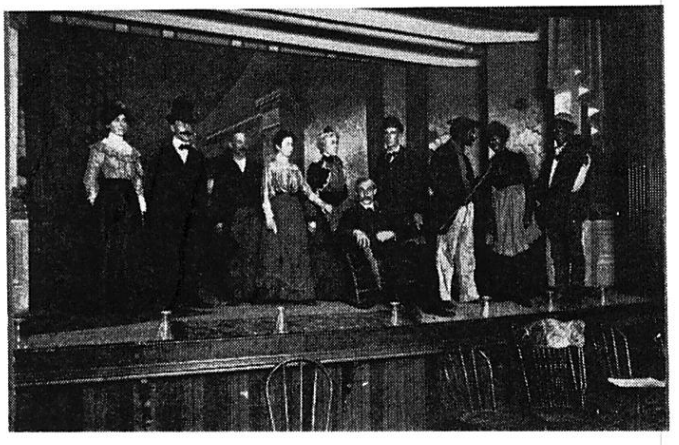
The early part of the decade was a busy one. The Town Hall held the center of interest. Council purchased lamps, furniture for mayor's office, a clock from M. L. Cunningham's @ $5.50; curtains for all rooms; matting for the auditorium and carpet for the stage; two cells for the jail; a piano, a very ornate upright that served long and well for minstrel shows, melodramas, class plays, silent movies, medicine shows, graduation exercises, Decoration Day programs; 4th of July events; home talent plays, imported plays, church services, and is still in the auditorium showing its use and abuse; voted that the use of the auditorium and stage by home talent for the benefit of home people would be granted for the actual expense of lights, heat, and janitorial services; room rental, $75.00 per year; council occupied the two central rooms until 1949 when Bradner Branch Library started. Ladies gowned in the latest fashions, gentlemen in top hats, gloves, and spats gathered for the events. The Bradner Opera House was very popular and continued to be for a number of years. In '06 "Ten Nights in a Barroom", "A Country Kid," "The Merry Milkmaid". More of this later.

Two years before, the Stephens Brothers had declared their intentions of erecting a modern brick building, and had jacked up the building, preparatory to moving. Laura Bowers recalled that the building stood up high from the ground for a long time and you had to watch your step as you went up and down. The front part was moved across the tracks on the south side of W. Crocker and became the front part of the Thompson House. The other part of the building was moved to the sawmill grounds as an office and burned in a big lumberyard fire. Council required them to erect a safety fence around the hole.

'01 saw the brick building become a reality, and Charles Hyter, the same year, erected the brick building just east in the same block. The Hyter building housed the Post Office in a tiny room downstairs on the south side and the telephone exchange upstairs. The Stephens building housed the bank next to the store and the IOOF Hall upstairs. Many dances,



North Main looking north



Cast of early stage play

banquets and social and patriot meetings have been held in this hall. Charles Riley took over the Stephens store in '08. John H. Stephens' mother, Catherine, was David Hanline's daughter. His father settled in Bradner in 1835. His sister married C. H. Lightner. He and his brother David took over the store from the Petersons in 1877. This writer always supposed these two buildings were just one, but C.S. Hyter, 1901, is in raised letters on the south side. It is fast deteriorating and should be preserved.

'02 brought an Ordinance to suppress and restrain houses of ill fame; forbidding of intoxicants to minors and to habitual drunkards; Sunday closings of all businesses; forbidding expectoration (spitting) in public buildings; saloons closed on election days; no gaming, slot machines, billiards, pool, or dice where intoxicants were sold; saloon windows free at all times and in full view; forbidding tethering of animals along streets, alleys, lawns, or public grounds; no posting or distributing handbills by merchants or other without license costing $15.00.

The family of John Bradner, the founder, presented the Village with his portrait. His death had occurred late in 1901 and Council had extended sympathy and sent flowers. The Bradner Telephone Company poles were to be used for installing lights on Main and Crocker. A telephone was to be given to the light plant in exchange for free electric service.

'03 Council allowed the School Board to use the town hall for classes; board to furnish fuel and janitor (Wm. Plantz). The jog was removed from the sidewalk on Main Street and gutters were made on both sides Evans St. from Lightner to Caldwell. Council also accepted report of Harry V. Gifford on grade marks:

BM 1763 mark on top sill of Town Hall north side of entrance

BM 1549 north bolt of hydrant NW corner Main and Lightner

BM 2068 northeast bolt on hydrant SW corner Bell and Lightner

'04 The watering trough, and well drilled and pump installed on N. Main.

Council purchased 3.62 acres from the south end of ManHattan Oil Co., bounded by Spring Street on the north (1886 map), Cherry Street on the north, the Hocking Valley and Church Street on the east, and Lightner on the south for $700. At that time The Manhattan owned the Crystal Hotel and surrounding grounds east of the tracks and most of the former Bradner Oil Company's lots west of the RR over to Maple Street and beyond. The Oil Co. reserved 50 ft. in each direction from the old oil well located in the southwest corner, and sold at auction the barn on the light plant grounds.

'05 Water works was enlarged and equipment updated. Overzealous bicyclists who found the boardwalks more inviting than the muddy streets were brought before the mayor and fined. Bonds in the amount of $13,500 were issued to build a municipal light plant. Some of the first wiring was done by Principal Brisbane and he was the first guy to get arrested for riding his bicycle on the new sidewalks. The Hocking Valley put a switch on the light plant grounds.

The kids used to play under the street lights and when electric street lights first came on, this was really something. All the kids in the neighborhood gathered and celebrated. The Crocker and Stahl Street gang, Lillie McNulty, Emmie Seeley, Clayton and Reynold Shreffler, Annie and Mike Zimmerla, Glen DeGroff who stayed with Thomas Morgan, Ollie and Eddie Whelan, played tag, hide and seek, threw hats at bats and screamed when the bats swooped down. They told tales of bats getting caught in people's hair. This writer remembers

Lightner Street looking west

playing under the streetlights was a favorite summer eve pasttime, and we, too, would run and scream when the bats swooped down.

Those who were too poor to have their homes wired for electricity continued to use oil lamps. In the not-too-distant past, coal oil lamps were burned when the electricity was off for any reason. Bill McCormick read meters. Maybelle Jeffries remembers they were one of the last to get their house wired because Dad was too busy wiring other folk's homes. Maybelle would take supper to her dad at the plant and have to wait for trains four miles long in the cold. This year saw a serious typhoid fever epidemic. It is known that the health officer came to a home, pumped water from the family pump into a glass, held the glass to the light and pronounced it clear and ok.

The big stone quarry was made when Miller Co. contracted to build the road to Pemberville, and was still running when Tressel contracted to build the road to Prairie Depot (Wayne). He made the little quarry in '04-'05. It was rumored that he refused to make a kickback to the County Commissioners and never got another job in the county.

The Toledo, Fostoria & Findlay track was completed from Fostoria to Pemberville. Billy Baker's and Joe Rhodes Blacksmith Shops & Wheelwrights were fascinating places for the boys who would hurry there after school and crowd in close to watch. When they got so close that the sparks fell on them, they could expect and they usually received a shower of tobacco juice on their legs, causing them to jump back in a hurry. One time Billy Baker was heating the iron tire of a wagonwheel to be able to remove it for a new tire. Dinnertime came and he carefully pulled the wheel away a bit from the fire. Two little boys happened in, and having seen Les Whiteman throw an ax into the fire to get the broken handle out, saw the fire was too far away from the wheel to do any good, and wishing only to be helpful, pushed the fire up around the wheel real good. When Billy came back to work--Oh, Oh, so-o-o-o mad! He had to go to Tiffin to buy a new wheel.

For years, hungry little boys would slip into Harry Youngs Bakery for broken cookies and would ask, and receive all they wanted, but just let one try to help himself, he was sure to get whacked with the oven paddle and Harry would laugh and laugh. Frank McNulty helped set yeast.

Kids all had tree houses in Hosey's Grove where Whites lived for years and where Braggs live now. Many a school boy got chewed out for chasing a ball or cutting corners short on White's lawn.

The north end of Timmons Road was cut through from Crocker to Caldwell by the Township. Crocker used to extend

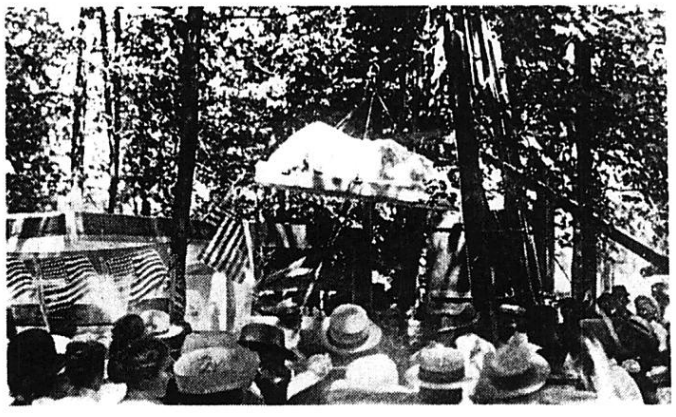
OX ROASTS

Here again records differ. 1910 or 1911? Who has the answer?

The first ox roasts were held in Shepler's Grove, a mile north of town, west of the Hocking Valley tracks & T.F.&F. tracks, approximately where Roysters Feed Mill is located. Folk loaded on the special open-car trolley that the T.F.& F. provided at 5 cents per person These roasts were big affairs: eats, special speakers, orations, special music. Helen Ostrander Hiser recalled speaking pieces and having to be helped on and off the temporary platform. We have a picture dated 1911 of a rubber tired buggy, spokes all shined and polished, bright yellow fly net on Babe with Lee and Goldie Entsminger at first ox roast. Rev. Wiegman recollected coming to Bradner from Pemberville just special to the ox roast.

The first ox were roasted standing up. A big oven was built and a derrick was provided to lift the ox up out of the pit. An Advocate picture dated 1911 speaks of the second annual ox roast. "August Helle in derby hat was one of the founders of the annual celebration. The latter along with his business partner, Frank Hoxworth, originated the event in 1910. Helle in derby, far left, Mr. Hoxworth, center right with apron, luxurious moustache and glum look about the entire situation. According to Esther Becker, daughter of Mr. Helle, there was considerable difficulty encountered in preparing this particular ox. It took all night to cook it properly." The article went on to say that this year's homecoming, July 23-27, would be the village's third. (You figure out the dates).

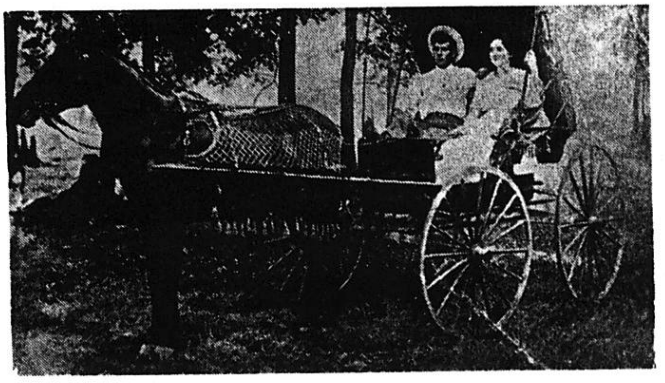
We offer these pictures. Some say they were taken at Wood County Fair; others say at Sheplers Grove. They are Bradner people having a good time. We included the K of P band and the Rock 'n' Roll band because they probably played at the affairs. The ox roasts at some point in time were brought into town, and held on the town lot behind Helen Shultz's Beauty Shop (present). Later held on the lot where the Fire Station is now.

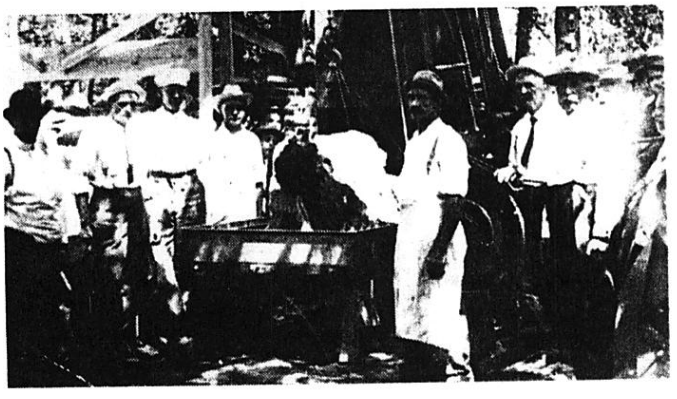


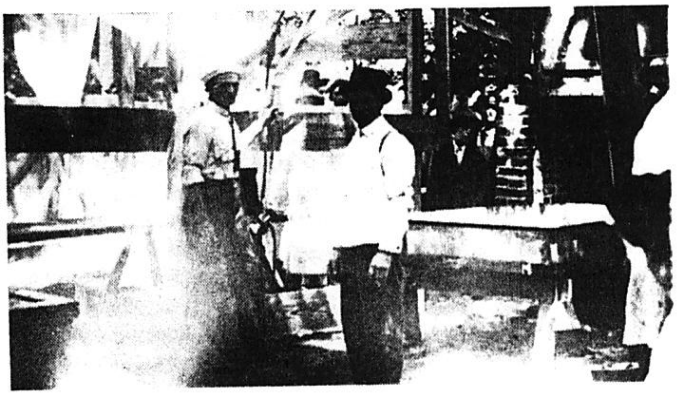
This page sponsored by

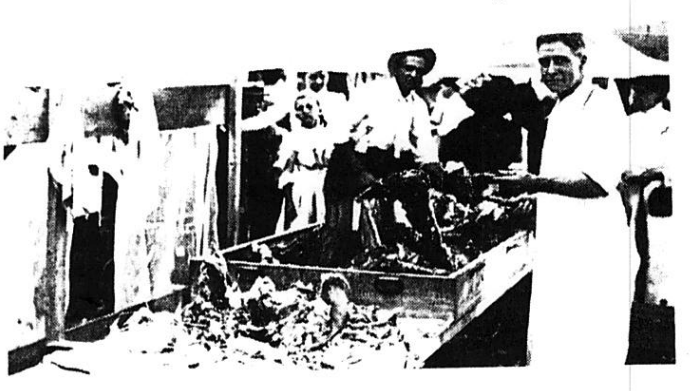
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION,
Fostoria

WOOD COUNTY PRINTING
& THE OFFICE PLACE
Bowling Green, Ohio









Ox Roast scenes

on east of Timmons to the slaughterhouse on the Hartman.

The new canning factory was located where the Ottawa Rubber is now. The canning factory was a good idea, but needed more planning to create a market. People cooperated in raising vegetables and fruit, and the women worked in the factory; the goods were on the shelves ready to go, but no one had planned an outlet, so the company went broke, and reputations went down the drain. Husbands were greatly disturbed that the women were not in their own homes.

'06 A 16 candle light was installed over the Town Hall entrance. The Opera House was being used week by week; the theater was running matinees and evenings; Mary Pickford, Jackie Coogan, Charley Chaplin; $1.00 admission; stage folk from Toledo imported for in-between acts; sat on folding chairs, stage and screen at south end. Frank Coveney has a lamp that came from the one on the corner run by Arlington Stiger that burned. After it burned, Emery Radebaugh and his dad were walking to town behind Orr Griswold. Mr. Griswold's hat flew off and landed on a charred stick. Emery ran and picked it up for him.

Some rules and regulations for telephone subscribers: never keep the receiver off the hook when not talking through the phone; talk in an ordinary tone of voice speaking directly into the transmitter; improper language is strictly forbidden; ring off as soon as you are through with the line; this will often prevent your line being reported busy to your customers and friends. Answer your bell promptly--otherwise quick service is impossible. Until your bell stops ringing, do not remove the receiver from the hook. Always listen on the line to see if it is busy before you ring. Someone else may be talking. Charles L. Riley moved in from Rollersville in '08. He and Sophia sat on packing cases until the store was furnished.

'08 flagstone sidewalks; a great improvement '09 lights along the HV RR; no firecrackers, pistols, torpedoes, rockets, or potash and sulphur mixtures to be exploded; speed through business district, 8 mph; 15 mph elsewhere;

The firemen received green coats and hats; I understand that one of the hats was in existence until the early 70's when it was destroyed in a housecleaning project. The Fire Dept. reorganized in September 16, 1909.

Some boys and girls found the spout of an old blue and white teakettle, loaded it with burdock, lit it to smoke. It got too hot to hold. Everytime one of them sees blue and white speckled granite-ware, she recalls this attempt at smoking. Many a lad got his start smoking cornsilk out behind the barn.

Council minutes from 1906-1916 are missing. Materials were gathered for this period from the Ordinance Book, court records, interviews and articles in the Advocate.

1910-1920

The glycerine factory blew up in 1912 killing two. A number of young ladies joined the Hartz Ladies' Band that travelled all over. Among them Nola Westerfield, Bessie Fairbanks Coveney, and Luella Hutchinson. They played at county Fairs, political rallies, chatauquas, for parades, playing at Toledo Beach, at a governor's rally in Columbus among others.

In March, 1913, came a great flood, and with it, me. The spring rains were heavy; the snow melted, and the ground was still too frozen to drain off the excess waters. All of Evans Street area both sides was under water. In order to reach school, the younger children had to be carried through the flood to higher grounds. Dad carried my sisters starting near Radebaughs to the corner of Bell and Crocker where the ground was dry. Bill Plantz, the janitor, carried them back

East Street looking north

North Main looking north

across. Then it froze. Our garden became an ice pond and dad put on his ice skates and "showed off" his skill, figure eights, and everything. I do not remember that time, but I do remember seeing him ice skate.

In 1914, a smallpox epidemic caused all school children to be vaccinated. Dr. Black and Dr. Van Pelt helped. A celluloid bubble was taped over the vacination. Some "took", some didn't. Children wore asafoetida bags either pinned to their underwear or on a string around the neck to ward off the germs. In 1915, the Bradner School was granted a First Grade charter. A Mr. Sheldon came and directed plays in the town hall. Edith Coveney and Nile McCormick were up in a half-moon and sang, a group of kids with boxes around them, a group of hoop girls were in drills. Tableaux with colored lights were shown on the roof of the hardware.

1916. Brought infantile paralysis in the fall and this writer had it. In our enlightened era of the latter half of the century this disease is called poliomyelitis. The Health Officer had a supply of disinfectants and fumigants and Council had given him authority to enter any and all homes where there was a contagious disease. At this time he was so frightened that he fumigated himself and stayed in the room so long that my mother had to rescue him before he passed out. He also had a supply of red quarantine posters and yellow warning cards that were either tacked on the outside by the door or displayed in a window where all could see and be warned.

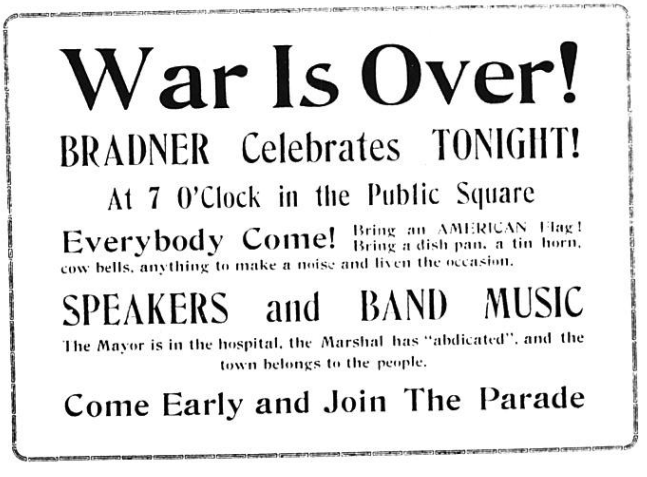
The fall of '16 also saw a "silent policeman" installed on the main square. Later replaced by a concrete dummy traffic light that caused many an accident.

1917-1918 saw a number of our boys enlist in WWI. Folks gathered at the station to see them off. Some made it home. A flag pole was erected on the Main Square. John Hosey had a big fire on the west side of South Main losing quite a lot of lumber and a couple buildings. Minors caught hopping freight trains were taken before the mayor and severely reprimanded.

South Main looking north

The hitching posts that had lined Main and Crocker were being removed--from the west side of Main first, then from the north side of Crocker, until the only ones remaining were on the town lot where the present fire station stands. Farmers had requested a place to hitch their teams.

On Nov. 11, the Armistice was signed and school was dismissed. There was a great celebration. A wagon was placed on Main Street near the Bradner House for political speeches. Five or six young ladies from the junior class "borrowed" a horse from one parent and the surrey from another and went merrily to Prairie Dept. On the way back, the horse got frightened at the noise and the crowds in the roads, and reared. Two of the girls got frightened and one had hysteria and Dr. Burnham shook her till her teeth rattled. The other girls got the horse under control and all returned home.



War Is Over!

BRADNER Celebrates TONIGHT!

At 7 O'Clock in the Public Square

Everybody Come! Bring an AMERICAN Flag! Bring a dish pan, a tin horn, cow bells, anything to make a noise and liven the occasion.

SPEAKERS and BAND MUSIC

The Mayor is in the hospital, the Marshal has "abdicated", and the town belongs to the people.

Come Early and Join The Parade

You can see by the poster that "good old Bradner town" had high jinks. If your hat did not have a couple bullet holes in it, you just weren't in it! Special night watchmen were hired for Halloween. These days on the calendar have always brought many varied items to adorn the Main Square. This particular one, three men were paid $1.50 a piece to clean up afterwards.

A horrible wreck on the north crossing (281) on Church St. snuffed out the life of Mannie Entsminger whose car was struck by the T.F.&F and completely demolished.

Ordinances regulating second hand dealers, profane language, intoxicating liquors, clamor, noise, and disturbing the peace, curfew at 8:00. I remember sitting on the curb on the south side of W. Crocker watching free Saturday night movies sponsored by the merchants, real thrillers, and always a continued one that left you hanging on a cliff or falling or about to be run over by a train. These were projected on the big false front of Yant's. Later, movies were shown on the rear of the lot where Tri-County is now, and also on the lot where the fire station is.

1920 C.L. Riley, wishing to cater to the trade, had a gasoline pump and tank installed on lot 44 and cut down one of the trees on lot 45.

An asphalt surface was put on Main Street, and it is difficult to remember but pictures show the mud streets and dirt roads. Stone street crossings were put in that helped mightily. The fence that had been so jealously erected around Bell's Grove when the property became school grounds had been trodden down and carried away until Council had the maintenance crew remove what was left on the west side.

Council and BPA had to work out some way to put the Waterworks on a paying basis.

The big event of 1920 was the Warden fire that wiped out the rest of the frame buildings just south of the brick buildings on the west side of South Main.

AMOS MOTOR SALES

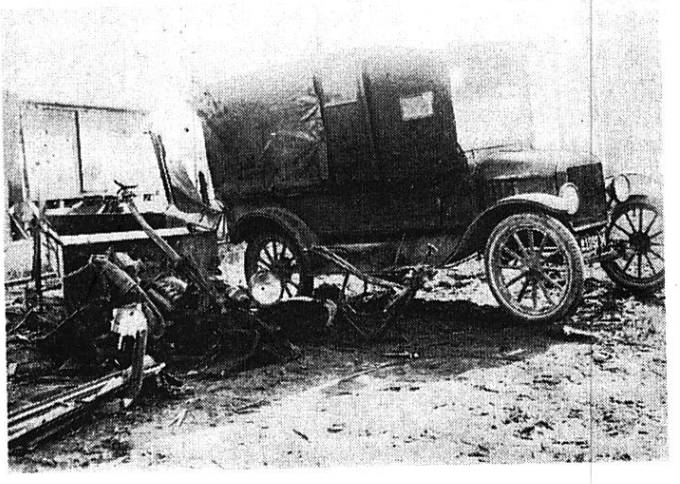
In 1918, Newton Sloan moved from the frame building on S. Main south of the brick block which housed his Bicycle and Auto Repairing Shop to his newly erected building north of the hardware to house his bicycle shop and parking garage. In 1954, lines designating the customers' stalls were still there--Mr. Stiger, Mr. Bonawitz, & Berridge, a few of the names able to be read. Later, his son Bill worked for him and eventually had the garage himself--Sloan's Garage. Mrs. Laura Bowers was a bookkeeper for a few years. At that time there were gas pumps out in front and gas was hand-pumped for the customers.

Clayton McDole purchased the building and operated a Kaiser-Frazier dealership for about five years. They rented the building to a man who installed a wooden floor and ran a skating rink.

In 1954, Trontous Amos, Jr. sold his garage in Rollersville (which he had opened in 1946 upon his release from the Air Force) and bought the property from Mr. McDole and called his business Amos Motor Sales.

After spending two years in Germany with the Army, Tom returned and is working with his father. George Hilt has been with them for twenty years.

During the past years, Mr. Amos purchased two properties on the south side of West Crocker, surrounding Charlie's

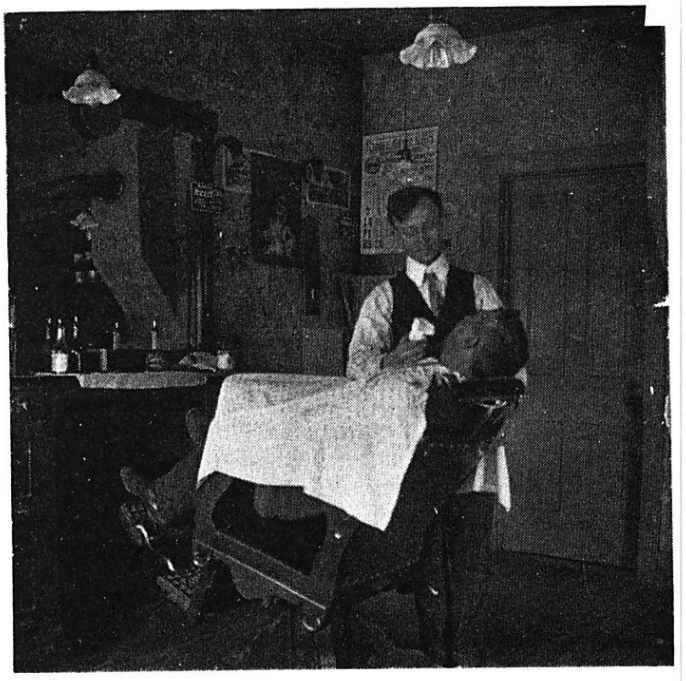


Entsminger accident scene

Route 281 and Spring Street looking southwest

Barber Shop, raised the buildings and blacktopped the lots for Amos Motor Sales Used Cars. The two buildings on these lots were landmarks in Bradner's history. The one east of Charlie's was originally the one re-built by Oliver Harris after the May 1, 1897 fire that wiped out Crocker from the corner up to the Drug Store. This building has housed Huffman Meats, Hoxie's Meat Market, Al Force Barber Shop, Charlie's Barber Shop (before he took over the present little building) The building west of Charlie's shop was the Drug Store.

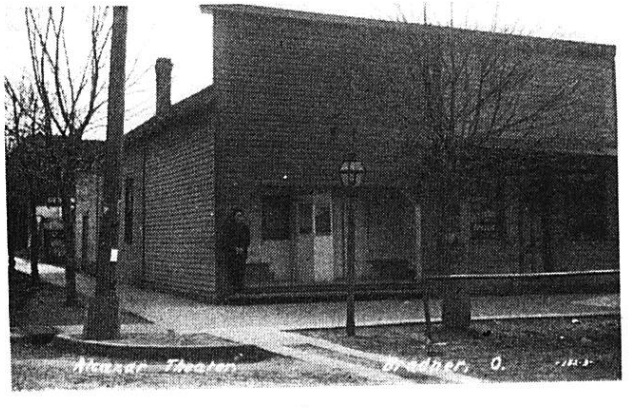
Sometime before Sloan Garage was built, another frame building was in the spot and the Bull Durham Tobacco Co. painted a big bull on the north side of this building. This picture split the town wide open. The mothers and all the women were up in arms and the company had to come and paint a fence across the bull on their giant mural. If you are familiar with the picture you will notice the board fence. When Frank Coveney told me about this, I thought he was stringing me, but if you look closely on the teater picture on the rear on the extreme left, you will notice the bull's tail. This picture also shows the Alcazar Theater that Egan and Bissell replaced their old saloon with that burned in 1897. Arlington Stiger owned it. This theater also burned.



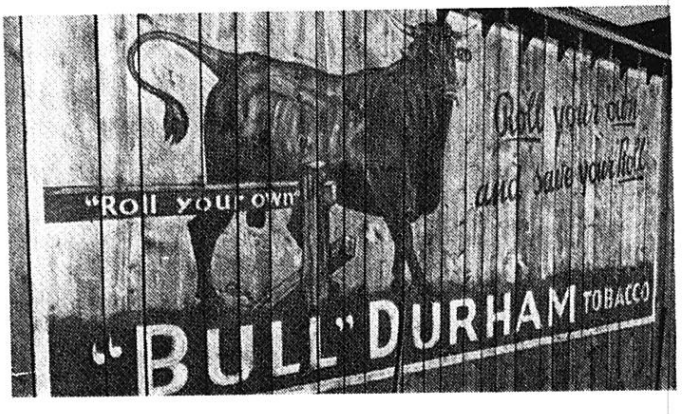
Barber Al Force & John Clapp

Dr. Furste's office stood originally beside his home on lot No. 52 north of the Town Hall next to the alley. Council used it as their first meeting place as Dr. Furste was the first mayor in 1890. After J.P. Evans took over the Drug Store he wanted the Doctor's office close to the store so folk could purchase their medicines there. There were other doctors in town at the time and presumably J.P. had an eye to business, so the little building was moved. The doctor was his brother-in-law. Both men had married the Huffman girls, Rena and Mattie. In 1897 a Dr. Mann, dentist had his office in with Dr. Furste.

The little building has housed a law office, a jewelry store, The Advocate and has been a place of residence. It nestled close to the drugstore for more than fourscore years until the drugstore was torn down in 1974 to make room for a parking lot. Charles Krawetzke bought it from Paul Huffman.



Alcazar Theater



Building advertising created controversy

This page sponsored by

OTTAWA RUBBER COMPANY, Bradner

TRI-COUNTY NATIONAL BANK OF FOSTORIA,
Bloomdale-Bradner-Findlay-Fostoria-Tiffin

1920-1930

W.L. Bryan built the brick Post Office on W. Wooster, the west half of the present Post Office, and opened for business September 19,1921.

1922 BRADNER'S FIRST WIRELESS

Wm. Sloan built the first radio; Dawson Kortier, the second; Emery Radebaugh, the third. Emery worked hard, mowing lawns, etc. to buy parts. He was about 14 years old when he bought his first tube for $5.00; second, $6.50, he walked to Wayne and back to get it. Mother wouldn't let him have the stuff in the house, so he worked in the old shed, and made his own set for $60.00. George and Emma Spengler, both used the earphones and George believed it was a trick--that it was not actually coming from Pennsylvania, KDKA, or Detroit, WWJ. Then he made a set for Alvin Beatty and one for Zip Zimmerla. Thad, Mr. Radebaugh, stayed up until 1 a.m. to get Havana, Cuba. Jack Jackson at Pemberville owned the first one around and also the first TV in the territory. Emery had a tube collection that burned in the garage fire in 1939.

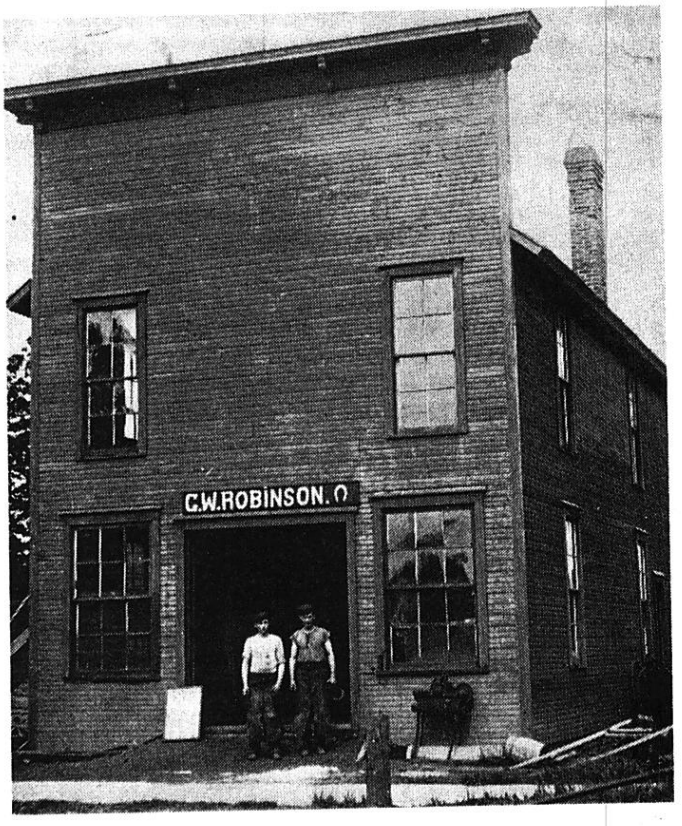
1922. George Robinson erected his sign on the wagon works and blacksmith shop on the east side of S. Main.

Let us pause to look at the blacksmith picture in Bradner's history and quote directly from Tootles "The blacksmiths came in droves. The earliest smith we can find any trace of was Louis Riley, whose shop was located on the triangular plot of ground that now marks the resting place of the huge British field gun...Old "Pap" Riley as everyone called him, sold his little shop to Tom Welsh, who turned it into a boiler works. It was later run by his brother, George. Cornelius Bryan, father of Mayor F.A. Bryan, opened his blacksmith shop shortly after Mr. Riley, located on S. Main where George Robinson hung out his sign. The brawny and sinewy sons of the flaming forge were John Miller, shop located on lot 61 north of Frank Coveny's residence; John Hutchinson, where George Robinson was; Al Rhoades where Millers was and Wm. Baker shop on lot 64 at the rear, (I remember going there with Dad. He sold Hanford's Balsam, good for man or beast, and always gave me a comic story book that extolled the virtues of the product) Tommy Peterson, George Robinson, who later moved his shop to his home on Bell and Crocker, southwest corner, Robert Hutton Hunlock, Speck, Claude Egbert, standing beside George in the picture, Milo Zimmerla and Paul Braden.

ACETYLENE WELDING

"A lot of prestige belongs to the village with the importation into the picture of this particular trade, for the first welding shop in the entire country was right here in Bradner. And George Robinson was the pioneer welder who started and still maintains that business here (1936). Mr. Robinson, who had been a blacksmith since 1908, entered George Shemel's school for welders in 1914 and completed the course that same year. He worked the next two years for the Reenforced Field of Metalism Company of Toledo. He opened his own shop here in 1917.

"War broke out with the U.S. and Germany, the latter having patents for the manufacture of oxygen and naturally refused to supply America with this imported welding chemical. The new outfit George had purchased was useless, but George reinvested in another type and went merrily along.



Robinson's Shop - 1922

He has been well repaid for this set. (I recall going with Dad to his shop and by suggesting that you didn't think he could do what you wanted, that was just when he did do the impossible. I believe he made himself a set of false teeth. Possibly the saying, "let George do it" referred to him. At least the town folk felt so.) Other welders were Sprague Hoiles, Glenn Shepler, Leon Rubel, and Burton French.

Ora Smith built a machine shop on S. Main on lot 29 and Everett Ulrich manufactured a small hand plane and was shipping them out and made quite good. H.H. Harms Bradner Dairy Co. or Ice Plant drilled the water well on the town lot deeper and erected a loading platform on the east side in the alley. He moved the hitching racks to the east side of the lot.

1923 the Bradner Telephone Co. closed down and the Ottawa Telephone of Elmore provided service to the village.

The village issued bonds to "extend, enlarge, erect, improve, and repair the waterworks."

1924 stands out in my mind as the year that Crocker Street was paved, curbed and storm sewers and catch basins were installed. The huge limestone crossing blocks that had helped get us across the mud at the Stahl Street crossing were piled high in front of our horse. For a glimpse of mud streets and conditions before paving, check the picture showing the old cemetery church being moved past our house to its present location on Bell and Crocker. I had really forgotten just what mud streets were until Elsie French brought in this picture. The Shedenhelm popcorn wagon made its appearance on Saturday nights on E. Crocker by the Mechanics Bank.

1925 saw the A. McBurney marker dedicated on Memorial Day, saw C.C. McCracken tear down the elevator to make way for the double track on the C&O that had taken over the Hocking Valley. The town boys got a taste of working for a southern "slavedriver" while the double track was being laid. I could not find a picture of the elevator. If you have one, please send it.

1926 A.A. Stiger bought town lot 66 to add to the lumber company. The Dolly Lord Players put on a series of dramas in the Town Hall and our school orchestra played.

June 15, 1926 An article in the Advocate: Aw Gee Whiz! 'Ve called your attention to this in an editorial in last week's publication. (apparently someone wanted to celebrate Bradner's fiftieth).

October 14 & 15, 1926, The Aurora Borealis gave out with celestial fireworks that crippled radio and telegraph lines. In a big magnetic storm, the Northern Lights on Thursday and Friday nights put on an almost unbelievable show. Those were real "melodramers."

1927 opened with the disastrous fire at the light plant and waterworks on Sunday morning, February 20. A defective transformer caused loss of $10,000. Quoting Advocate for Feb. 25: "With the light and water plant in ruins Sunday morning, Bradner within a very few minutes was receiving its usual supply of water, and lights were turned on the same evening in time for services. The Hocking Valley which receives water supply from the Bradner plant was not inconvenienced. Wayne and Risingsun which get their lights through the transformers at Bradner also had lights for Sunday night...certainly a record.

The contents of the south half of the building except the pump in the pit, the roof of that part of the building were burned and destroyed. The old Hoiles engine stored away for an emergency soon had water forced into the lines. The old engine, dynamo, other machinery and supplies were destroyed. The T.F. &F. lost about $6,000 in machinery and equipment. W.B. McCormick also lost about $500 worth of his individual supplies. The new roof has already been put on the building and things are running as usual, a record due to Bradner's being prepared for emergencies. September 2 saw the Iron 'ing Mf'g plant destroyed by flames $25,000 loss. The blaze started in the paint room and quickly spread to the saw mill. Office records and valuable papers were saved. F.A. Bryan foreman, was on duty. N.S. Bell, president, E.K. Mason, vice president, and C.H. Kortier secretary, were all out of town. The company was orgainzied in 1920 and was quite successful making the well-known Well pulling machine of that name and the plant has been busy filling orders.

On July 26, 1927, for 35 cents at the IOOF Hall a chicken supper with the following menu: chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, noodles, coleslaw, pickles, bread, pie and coffee.

Sept. 16, Monday, was the scene of bank hold-up. Three bandits parked for a while in front of Coveny's Store and took turns walking about town making observations. They watched for an opening when the cashier and his assistant would be alone. Two entered and one remained in the car. They made their get-a-way with $1,215. They had not been apprehended by the 18th, Wednesday.

Feb. 14, 1928. the Valentine Murders when Alphonse Capone's gunmen, three dressed as cops, two in civvies, carrying machine guns and sawed-off shotguns, left six dead, one dying, in a burst of fire, a Valentine gift to Bugs Moran.

1928, the T.F.&F. installed signal lights at the road crossing. All mud streets were scraped. N. Sloan installed a gas tank on the alley north of the garage and buried in the ground.

1929 new fire engine. Air marking placed on K of P hall roof.

1930. No fireworks sold inside the corporation. The streets were closed for the carnival and ox roast. The telephone change was moved to Wayne. Council had to oversee unemployment and provide a room to feed needy children.

The T.F.& F. went into receivership and closed down October 1 after 24 years of service. The depression was in full swing and getting worse.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Soon after I graduated in the year 1930, I was asked to join a basketball team, organized by Opal and Marjie. Members of the team were Dona Cooper, Opal and Marjorie Eckert, Helen Schell, Ione Blessing, Marion Wright.

We played by boys rules, five on a team.

Late in November we had a match with the team from Broadway Methodist. The weather was bad so we rode the T.F. & F. trolley. Going down was swell. While we were playing, a big ice & snow storm came up. The world was quite slippery as we boarded the trolley for the trip home. We sort of had our doubts, if we would get home.

Near Luckey there was a hill called The Hump, the trolley had to go over The Hump.

Everything was fine until we reached "it." Several times the trolley tried to negotiate the hill. If we could just get to the top! Tried, it did! But that hill was just too slick!

The passengers, we five and a few other brave souls, got out and with a ho, and a heave, slow but sure, we pushed the trolley to the top. The conductor yelled, "Come on! Be Careful! Don't slip!"

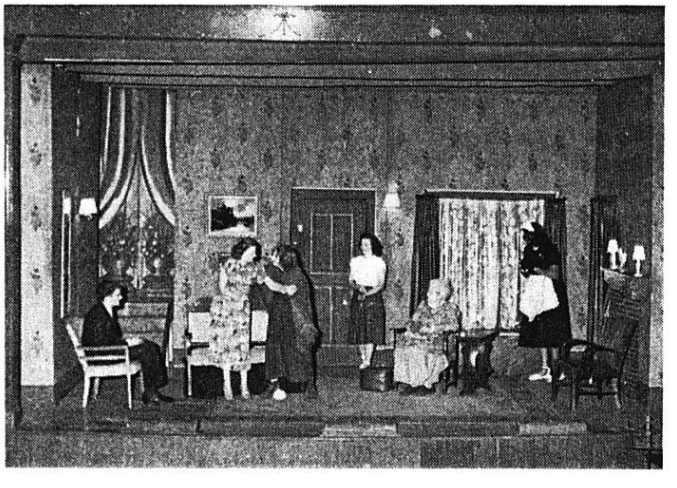
All we had to do was walk around the back and board. We were laughing so hard at the absurdity of the whole situation, having a great time--didn't one of us start to slide down that hill!

This was one night I will never forget. I miss the old T.F. & F. The above was contributed by Marion Wright Krawetzke.

HOME TALENT SHOWS

"Home talent shows, the first in 14 years put on in Bradner," was stated by a number of business men in October, 1929--the occasion: CIVIL SERVICE a three-act play. Mrs. J. Brandon Smith, a newcomer in town, trained and schooled at the John B. Rogers Production Company of Fostoria for four years, and at the Solomon School of Music as well, came to Bradner where there was not even a library. Mrs. Smith thought, "I'll get a sponsor or two and do what I'm trained to do." The young couple gave a party for fifty-two guests. Through games and stunts during the evening, Mrs. Smith watched very closely and carefully selected the first cast; Donna Rose Sage, Carl Hutson, Dawson Kortier, Stewart Knepper, Annabel Keller, James Hutton, Edna Kuhn, Dale Stump, Velma Long, Paul Bowe, and Ione Blessing.

NANCY ANNA BROWN'S FOLKS was a stirring show of



Scene from "Demon In the Dark" stage play

professional quality with Gloria Jackson as lead, and Paul Bowe as the villain who finally wins the heart of Gloria, but when the crucial moment came, entering the stage with arms uplifted and open, he exclaimed, "Will you let me be your wife?" It was more than ten minutes before the audience could recover enough so the play could go on.

MISSISSIPPI MINSTREL was given several times, sponsored by the Firemen and by the K of P's each being years apart. It was a big hit and remembered yet. DEMON IN THE DARK was given February 10, 1938, a mystery show; CHATTERVILLE SCHOOL, MOTHER OF MINE, a stirring play, rich inpathos, full of laughter, a joy to witness; and many, many more directed by Mrs. Smith over the years.

The article on entertainments would not be complete without billing the WOMANLESS WEDDING, given in the school auditorium, sponsored by the Bradner P.T.A., admission 10 and 20 cents. The cast included the following: Kenneth Kern, Verne Dennis, Martin Seiple, Charles Kern, Micky Torok, Delbert Warden, Vere Peoples, Charles Whiteman, M.C. Morrison, Dan Smith, Emerson Huffman, Waldo Ahlf, Noel Lentz, Wm. Malehorn, Will Smith, John Shultz, Delmar Plouck, Ralph Duquette, Glenwood Lentz, Ed Mason, Harold Sage, Charles McCormick, Hugh Sage, Bill Sabo, Richard Teeple, Earl Molter, Franklin Slye, Clayton McDole, E.E' Loucks, Mr. Fox, Ralph Shepler, James Hutton, Richard Huffman, Lee Entsminger, Ed Smith, Alonzo Shultz, Conley Cribbs, Dr. Erl Beatty, Ralph Bowman, Carl Baker, Ray Molter, F.S. Warner, Hap Sworden, Vernon Graber, Harold Entsminger, Gene Beatty, Wm. Bowe, George Graber, Wilbur Roberts, Bruce Bryan, Louis Knepper, Mayor Al Stump.

Early entertainments a Grand Ball given by the International Brotherhood of Oil and Gas Well Workers in their hall Friday evening, September 21, 1900.

Reception Committee F. Null, J.M. Murray, V.D. Pember; Floor managers' E.C. Coleman, H.A. Schell, B.C. Ladd.

The first ball given by the Bradner Social Club at Bierly Hall, Thanksgiving Night, November 25, 1897. Members were Chas. Stowe, M. Burns, Frank Wheelan, M. Freese, Frank Veary, Ed Walters, Wm. Nolan, F.J. Green, J. Bissell, Carl Huffman, B. Killgore, Geo. Galbert, W.G. Riley, Greely Schell, Walter Morrison, W. Webber, L.M. O'Hern, A.J. Kramb, F.H. Lamb.

The "Storied" House

1930-1940

1931. The town fathers were very much discouraged. A representative of the Lake Erie Power & Light presented to them how the town would benefit by the sale of the light plant. Geo. Klingman and Lee Lemon visited other villages that had sold theirs to see how things were working, the BPA decided to advertise for bids to sell the plant. Will Sloan made a comparison of power rates actually paid as what would be according to Lake Erie Power with the State Utilities Commission; also an analysis of receipts and expenditures of the Plant for the last year and gave information on the use of Diesel power plant to generate our own current. On June 4 Council rescinded motion to sell. Streets were oiled. T.F. & F. roadbed was scraped and levelled.

1932. Storm sewer problems surfaced. Kelsey-Freeman successor to Stiger Lbr. Co. Faulty fire siren. Opposition and complaints over the administration of the auto tax funds in hiring relief work of the village needy. The Village bought electricity from Lake Erie Public Service Co.

1933. Banks were closed. Scrip was used to pay the village workers whose hourly wage was cut to 25 cents an hour. Village funds were jeopardized by banking situation. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works to finance $44,490 extension and reconstruction of waterworks system. Plans and specifications were approved by the Ohio Inspection Bureau. A wage scale was restored in 1929 to 40 cents an hour.

1934. On lot 59 just south of the Fairbanks-Coveny residence on N. Main St. a weather-beaten frame house, window panes gone, no paint left to chip off, with everything--furniture, clothing, home-canned goods on the shelves--just as it had been left--a victim of heirs who could not agree, it was rumored. I understand that clothing and furniture were "borrowed" to grace the stage and the actors for many a performance in the opera house across the way. At one time, it must have had people and laughter, but to us younger folk it was a "haunted" house. Then came the time when the old house was to be sold. Folks said it would fall apart if it were moved, but Nels Kingsley did the impossible--moved it farther north where it stands today on OL24 at the northern corporation line on the same side of the street. The Kingsleys lived in it and Nels had a little gas station just north of it for years. The house is still lived in today.

The stage scenery was redecorated by Wm. Lee and Harland Morrison. Sylvarus Sommers moved his garage and gas pump to E. Crocker to the old ice house. The iron fence in front of the Town Hall was scrapped.

Civil Works Administration labor was used to repair mud streets with Stone and cinder from the old T.F.&F. right of way.

1935. The office of Assistant Treasurer was established. The BPA painted the water tower.

1936. Ord. declaring hitching sleds to autos must cease. Ox roast was one bright spot. The gym-auditorium was built.

1936. Word was heard that the prairie was to be drained. South of town is a stand of woods--wet, dismal waste land, thickets, prairie marsh, sandy loam, deep vegetable mold (muck) that used to catch fire and burn for weeks (pollution?). This writer remembers being pulled in the little red wagon out to Timmons hill to get a load of sand for the sand pile by the back door where much of my early childhood was spent making mud pies with Helen Bryan Cribbs who lived next door north. As children, we were told that the prairie, as we called it, was a haunt for thieves and a lurking place for criminals and tramps.

Chas. L. Riley tore down old frame building that stood just south of Bragg's Insurance on N. Main. This building had been a saloon, a tin shop, a meat market.

1937. Watermains were broken down in parts of town; some sections were without water entirely. A special election for the waterworks, 202 votes, against 29 votes. WPA project approved

for the waterworks. Homecoming was drawing such crowds that all of the firemen were appointed as deputies. The concrete traffic signal in the center of Main Square was replaced by suspended lighting. Bill Parker was given permission to drill a gas well on lot 18.

1938. Flashers were installed at the Rt.297 (281) crossing. Erv Lyons permitted to shoot well, drilled on Parker, lot with 60 quarts of glycerine to be held down with two ton lake sand and gravel to insure keeping the explosion debris from coming out the hole to protect properties from the falling debris. The well was a producer. It was capped just recently.

Homecoming was the first week in August. Band played every Saturday night before the free movies while waiting for darkness. Iron King repaired Town Hall roof. Special deputies for Halloween.

1939. W.G. McCormick retired as Supt. of light plant. Herschel Fairbank was hired. WPA closed with 27% of the work unfinished; The Reginald Ryder home out N. Main was the only new building project.

1940. WPA to rewrite Ordinance book. Street repairs. New furnace in Town Hall, new filing cabinet for the Council room.

1940-1950

1941. "Since this is the last year that fireworks can be sold, they shall be permitted to be fired five days, July 2, 3, 4, 5, 6." During these years there was friction between the clerk and the Council. Peddlers must be licensed. Route 6 was constructed and traffic was routed over Caldwell. Septic tanks and bathrooms began to appear. Pearl Harbor, December 7, called more of our lads and lassies into Uncle Sam's service by draft and by volunteer.

1942. Carl Hutson became light plant superintendent. The railroad crossing on Cherry was abandoned. The belfry on the town hall was repaired. First aid classes were held in the school house. Blackout regulations were observed. The clerk stated that there was over-spending without due regard to appropriations. He chided council for buying articles in abundance whether needed or not. Birds and pigeons interfered with the siren in the Town Hall belfry. A fence erected on N. Main St. sewer outlet to keep the cows out. A Detroit, Mich., transient was found dead in the fire engine room.

1943. Day labor now 60 cents an hour. Sewer at corner of Bell and Crocker collapsed. Storm sewer problems mounting. Town Hall doors repaired. Article from May 20 Advocate: "Bradner Blackout termed a success. The town was pitch black. The master switch was pulled so that there was no chance for electric lights. The warden was active throughout the test and reported that citizens cooperated first rate. Men are dying for the four freedoms. The least we can do here at home is buy war bonds." Distribution of Ration Book No.3. Curfew enforced. Village traded the old Knight for a 1937 Ford truck $409.85. Citizens misusing Hiser dump. (the old stone quarry)

1944. Citizens ask that street lights burn all night. Polio epidemic. No carnival homecoming this year. Blackouts and air raid protection. Gold Star Mothers. Night prowlers reported. Ade Hiser of Bradner Greenhouse died.

1945. Switchboard moved to Wayne. Another big fire. Bradner Greenhouse caught fire, could not get whistle blown; much damage before fire extinguished.

Severe winter damaged streets. Called the "Winter of the Big Snow". No carnival-homecoming. Glendale Keller, Don Lantz killed in War. Richard Warden missing. Boys coming home from overseas.

Civil Aeronautics Commission request air route marker: 41 degrees 19 minutes 30 seconds latitude BRADNER 83 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds longitude

1946. Fire protection mutual agreements among Tri-villages and the Township. Carnival-homecoming. The injunction against streets being blocked was lifted. Sewer pipe in Ashley ditch broken. 10-year contract with Toledo Edison to purchase electricity. Children must be kept off the fire truck!

1947. Bad ice and sleet storm Jan. 16. Mayor Sam Teeple died suddenly. Parking on one side of street for church services and funerals.

1948. American Legion borrowed seats from Town Hall for picture shows. Daylight Savings Time caused a lot of grumbling and missed appointments. Council was first approached about a room in the Town Hall for a library. Night watchmen at Carnival. Bell St. flooded, hard rains. Community Christmas tree in Main Square.

1949. Council bought shelving for the library. Decision made once again not to sell the light plant, at joint meeting of Council, BPA, and light plant supervisor and assistant. Library to be housed in two central Council rooms. Library opened October 29.

1950. Firemen remodelled rear of Town Hall. Removed furnace and jail cell. Hourly wage $1.00. Carnival-Homecoming July 17-22. Peddlers permits. Special Halloween deputies.

1950-1960

1951. Hourly wage $1.25. Lions Club working on park. C&O cut two daily trains. Watering trough and town pump removed (old landmark) as dangerous place where children could get hurt. Homecoming July 16-21 and ox roast on village lot.

1952. Railing placed on steps at Town Hall. Curfew at 9:00. James Youngs, of Youngs Appliance, polio.

1953. Lions Club minstrel show at Town Hall. Carnival-homecoming July 13-18. Route 281 to be widened.

1954. Hourly wage $1.10. New fire station. Bradner business men vexed at not being listed as Bradner Exchange in telephone directory.

1955. Must have written permit to keep livestock and poultry inside corporation. Parallel parking. East-West alleys in business district not to be closed. Building permits for new houses, garages and remodeling.

1956. Construction of new buildings around town. WRC, represented by Leila Smith and Cora Goetz, presented the Village with a new flag.

1957. More buildings erected and remodeled. Beebee guns and howling dogs.

1958. Glass doors for Town Hall. Ordinances codified, printed and adopted. Halloween parade and street dancing. New modern high-voltage sub-station with the necessary metering equipment installed. Work done by local men.

1959. Civil Defense Organization State Wide. Carnival-Homecoming July 12-19. More new buildings.

1960. Social Studies Class at local school viewed a Council meeting at the school house to see how a village is run. The American Legion Auxiliary presented 50-star flag to the Village by Katie McCoy. Flasher lights installed at 281 and C&O crossing.

1960-1970's

1961. Halloween trick or treats set for two nights. Park View addition annexed. New bank for Bradner, the Tri-County

National of Fostoria (First National).

1962. Another old landmark, the feed mill on the light plant grounds was burned by the firemen.

1963. Village park not progressing very well. Ball park on E. Caldwell. Trick or treats two nights.

1964. Bleachers for ball park. Homecoming. Trick or treats, two nights.

1965. Sewer problems. Trick or treats, one night, Oct. 30.

1966. On April 17, the village recognized three Eagle Scouts with a key to the village. Ordinance on squealing tires, peeling and cracking exhaust noises. New library sign for front of village hall. Homecoming July 17-24.

1967. Jobs of Village Clerk and Village Treasurer were combined. Skating rink built. County Engineer updated Bradner map on alley closings. Walnut View Apartments on East Crocker. On Novemember 2 another Eagle Scout honored.

1968. New fire truck. Village Park a no man's land. Fire siren frozen. Work begun on widening 281. Trees all along cut down. Trick or Treats from 7-9 on Oct. 31. Bucket truck for BPA.

1969. Red Letter Day! July 17. Bradner has first woman member on the village council, Mrs. Roy (Mary) Stahl, sworn in at special meeting on July 22.

1970. Elections held at the fire station. Another old landmark razed as a potential fire hazard, the Rozelle-Carsten property, on Caldwell, lot No. 477. Traffic flow lines painted on 281 and W. Crocker. City Income Tax passed, October 1. Council moved Halloween to Saturday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. for trick or treats. This was hailed as a progressive move. Girl Scouts accepted Village Triangle as their civic project.

SAGE FUNERAL HOME

In February, 1968, the Sage Funeral Home and Furniture Store in continuous operation since 1903 were purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barndt of Wayne. The furniture store was closed out and that building is used as a casket display area. Orrin Sage started in the south half of the Kortier brick on S. Main, and then moved to the Wyant & Reese Store on N. Main. In 1924, Harold Sage and family joined his father in the business. The older Mr. Sage died in 1938, and Harold assumed ownership in 1940. They purchased the Dr. Tucker residence at East and Crocker, and converted it into a funeral home with living quarters at the rear. After Mrs. Sage's death, son Tom helped out. The change in ownership closed 65 years that the Sage family had been in business in Bradner.

Amos Motor Sales

Bill's Market

1971-1976

1971. Official census: Bradner 1140 population. Council room modified for more storage space. Boots, helmets, coats for firemen. Red Letter Day: May 20, Noel Lentz showed Historical Board to Council. Red Letter Day: July 15, Historical Board presented to the Village. (See History of this history). Another increase in gas rates. Lightner paved from 281 to Stahl Street. Finkbiner, Pettis & Strout contacted for storm sewer for South east end of the village. Trash collection in effect. Council room door revamped.

1972. Police protection provided by four deputies hired to each work one week a month. The west end of the pond at the park to be shored up to stop erosion. Spray for mosquitoes. Peddlers solicitors, canvassers must be licensed; finger print kit. Gas rates rise again. Eighteen year olds taken into fire department. Halloween trick or treat Saturday, Oct 28, 2-4 p.m. (Comments have been very favorable on this from both mothers and residents). Halloween parade Oct. 31. Alley west of school made one-way. Carl Hutson died. Refuse bag pick-ups on weekly bag system.

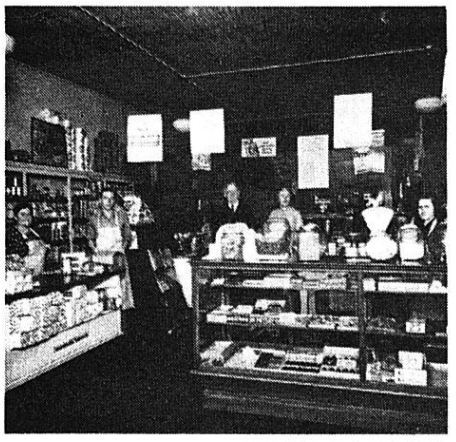
1973. Chief of Police appointed. Blue Cross, Blue Shield for village employees; identification card program; Cherry Street west widened past the park; tile in the park; one-mill levy for park. Speed gun for police; May 27, Dedication of swimming pool. Red Letter Day: July 19, Bradner to celebrate Centennial of being recognized as a village. Ambulance standby at Lakota football and basketball games. Trick or treats Oct. 27, 2-4 p.m.; parade 6:30 Oct. 30.

1974. Snowmobiles licensed. All terrain vehicles must bear slow-moving vehicle sign. Police room paneled. 18 year olds accepted as Auxiliary police; Oct. 4,5, Bean Festival to raise money for Anthony Graber and Edsel Clark to go to England in 1975 on music tour for all Ohio Youth Choir, and America's Youth in Concert; no alcoholic beverages in park or playground. Uniforms for auxiliary fireman.Tri-Village Sewage System was worked on. A shelter house at the park was constructed.

1975. No longer any Cherry Street; now it is known as East Caldwell and West Caldwell. Red Letter: Centennial week set at third week in July, 1976. Garey addition was annexed on March 6. Ball diamond is now located in the park. Ramps suitable for wheel chairs are to be made when new curbing or sidewalks are constructed. Picnic tables and merry-go-round ready for park. Storage addition to light plant much needed. Sanitation service unlimited pickup each week. Twenty complete outfits for firemen at $106.50 per outfit; $37.50 for boots, total $2,242.50. Red Letter: On November 18, United States Senator John Glenn sent mailgram notifying that Bradner has been granted Bicentennial Village status. Sewer tile was installed on Lightner, Maple and Cherry for Ashley Ditch.

I REMEMBER BRADNER

By Hurbert Kortier



Kortier Red & White Store - 1941

In the year 1901 or closely thereafter, my parents moved from Napoleon, Ohio, where I was born, to Bradner to enter the grocery business having purchased the Cramm Store in the Huffman building. The day of the automobile had not yet arrived, so the roads were very primitive, limited only to horse and buggy travel, also to heavy oil field traffic, as this was the North Lima oil field, yielding the highest grade crude.

Many of the people came to Bradner from the Pennsylvania oil fields for work after the Pa. field showed signs of depletion, just as, years later, many of these people and their families went westward to the Oklahoma and California fields; however, many of the Pa. folk remained in the community, and their descendants still remain.

Among many old photographs that are lost would have been one of the K of P band, containing the names of Frank Null, Chas. James, Bert, Herb, and John Hutchinson, Connie Clark, Howard Beam, Walter Stump, Sam Whistner, Lon Chronister, Harry and Eldred Calvin, Henry and Chas. Kortier, Bill McCormick, Milo Keller, Arlington Stiger and Albert Hoxworth.

The ultimate effort of entertainment during the horse and buggy days was the "Merry Milkmaids", an operetta consisting of all local talent with Henry Kortier and Cricket Davis taking star roles, tenor and soprano, respectively, other characters that I recall: Mrs. Olive Woods, Gypsy Fortune Teller; Frank Null, Pack Peddler; Bertha Davis, Mrs. Ed Langell, Ahlf, milk maids; Chas. Kortier, best man at the wedding, the climax of the production.

On beginning business in Bradner, illumination was by Kerosene lamps suspended from the ceilings and from the walls. There was some time before the electrical energy was generated by the local steam power plant; at first the power was supplied from 6 p.m.; after a length of time the generation of electric power was lengthened until all day service was supplied.

As we take a stroll in memory 60 years ago starting at the Nitroglycerine Barn where all the horse-drawn equipment was stored, as we go down the west side, we see the old machine shop run by Henry Ahlf; the next place John Hosey ran supplied oil well supplies. He had a mule that he drove for transportation. There was a bet as to who would outlast whom; John won by a nose.

The next set of buildings across the alley was used as a laundry by Pappy and Gordon Morrison; later the Bradner Advocate; then Ben Stark, the junk man; next was Cole's photographic studio; then Sloan's garage. This building burned to the ground one cold night supposedly starting from an electric iron left on in Ruth Warden's apartment above the garage. Fortunately, a fire wall and steel shutters kept the fire from consuming our (Kortier's) store.

The south part of the store before my father bought it was occupied by Sage's undertaking shop; they then moved to the location they occupied for many years, which had been occupied by Wyant and Reese Store, Wes Wyant and Top Reese were the operators.

My father remodeled the newly acquired side, by knocking out the wall, thereby doubling the space of the store, for dry goods and notions.

Across the alley was "The Fisher Hardware", then purchased by John Phister, later by Klingmans; next was "McClay Grocery" owned and operated by D. W. McClay, then purchased by Win Parker; later taken over by Klingmans. Above were the Knights of Pythias (who later moved above Kortier's General Store) and by the Grange. The Inman Bros., Calvin and Bruce, ran a drug store in this building, also.

In the vacant lot next, Sloans erected a garage which was owned and operated by Newt and Bill for many years. Then on the corner was a building which housed a movie and a saloon, which burned down. Billy Bryan then erected a building which housed the drug store and the post office. Billy started with Jimmy Evans (in the building where Molter's grocery formerly was located). A small office space was erected next door to the new building, wherein Charlie Foster had his law office, after moving from over Helle & Hoxworth meat market next door. This building was later occupied by Jay Fairbanks who started a grocery after the dissolution of the Fairbank and Kortier partnership. Then next was a barber shop occupied by Al Force; next was the office of W.B. Gregg attorney, until he and his family moved to Toledo. The last building was Jimmy Evans Drug Store; the upstairs was a dental office of Dr. Beatty, the father of Alvin, Lurlene and Gene.

Next was the Hocking Valley Depot. Bill White was the day agent and in charge of the station; John Coveney (Frank) was one of the operators, Floyd Fralick was second trick; Charlie Peterson was the night operator. All the frieght was carted into town by train until the Toledo, Fostoria & Findlay Interurban was constructed and began hauling freight and passengers. Until that time we rode the Hocking Valley into Toledo, arriving at the Union Station; then taking the trolley to downtown Toledo. After the T F & F, we rode to downtown Superior St. Interurban Station.

Freight was carted to our store by horse dray: Bob Blacklock, Bill Baldwin and Tom Shreffler. As time passed, our deliveries were made by the various firms we did business with, by truck, phasing out the draymen. The first roads were water bound crushed stone, at times almost impassable by chuck holes and wash outs. As traffic increased, the roads were tar bound which was an improvement. Finally, one of the first concrete roads was laid from the County Line Road (Wood and Sandusky) to the other side of Helena, where bricks were used nearly to Fremont.

Across the tracks stood the Thompson House Hotel which housed the T T F & F Station and also took care of the workers in the oil fields, and the "Runners" (traveling men who depended on these modes of transportation before the days of the automobile around the years of 1905 up to the late teens when the auto started to make its way into the American Economy and gardually changed the traveling habits of a nation and the world.

Across the street was "The Blue Goose" run by Hop Lewis and his wife, a saloon, eatery, gambling dive, catering to

the drinking and carousing populace and a general eyesore to the community. After the passing of the oil boom, it, too, passed, and later became the Passenger and freight station of the T F & F with Harley (Pete) Burnsides as the agent, followed by William and Ethel Plantz (father and daughter).

Now to go back over the tracks once again stood the elevator, formerly owned by Chas. Streck (my grandfather) who later sold it to Chas. Kortier (my uncle).

Next was a candy and ice cream store and Rexall Agency owned and operated by Harry Leopold and his son, Lynn. In this same building was a pool hall and bowling alley run by the same people.

Across the alley, Hoadleys had a small store or shop, run by Mrs. Hoadley and her family. I believe Wilma, who recently passed away, was the last of the Clan. Then came Gene Youngs restaurant. These last three buildings have been razed and new buildings erected on these sites as was the building on the corner, owned by Paul Fakehany and ice cream and confectionery store, purchased by C. W. Yant, and then by Charlie James who had gone west with the oil people but came back to live out his life along with Hattie his wife in Bradner.

As we turn the corner the next building was first a harness shop run by Eddie Kirk; when Eddie passed from this realm, "The Bradner Advocate" took it over; next was a barber and hair shop run by Peter Yochum; Petie made all the switches for the ladies of the community out of their own hair. This is where his son Archie learned the barbering trade. This was also a rendezvous for all the German people of the community. Across the alley was Elmer Russel's meat market. In the adjoining building was the Youngs Grocery and Bakery, possibly one of the oldest business places in town thru all the years. It was still run by a Youngs (Jimmy) until his passing recently. The front window was occupied by Lew Cunningham, a watch repairman for many years.

Across the street was Wyant and Reese General Store, later occupied by Sage & Son Mortuary. In the rear was the livery barn where their horses, hearse and pick-up conveyance were housed.

Next across the alley was the National Supply Co., supplier of oil well and drilling supplies, operated by Chas. Lee. Above was the G.A.R. hall where the Civil War Veterans had their meetings, who later moved to the building next to Youngs Grocery along with the Relief Corps. Before the G.A.R., Mrs. Watts ran a millinery shop there. She was the daughter of the Stockdales who lived on Bell Street.

Then to the south was the notorious Ora Shirts saloon, later purchased by Henry Errett, going out of business during the time of the Volstead Act; next was Henry Hartman's barbershop; later taken over by Al Force. Next was Charlie Riley's Grocery. In the same building, but on the corner was The Mechanics Bank. Clarence Powell was the manager, who later moved to New York; was succeeded by Clayton Stump who moved to Oklahoma after some time with the bank. In this same building was housed the Post Office managed by Maggie Ladd Null. Next was Jim Horner's pool parlor and his son Clarence Barber Shop. In the upper floor was the Odd Fellows Lodge Hall and the Bradner Telephone System owned and operated by Al Stump. At that time Ruth Warden was night operator; Etta Morrison on days; Zip (Milo) Zimmerla's sister had the afternoon shift.

Across a vacant lot and alley was the St.Clair Grocery. I do not remember Mr. St. Clair's name; the family left town, then the store was taken over by the elevator as store space and place for the delivery horse and wagon. A small building was beside the store where a Mr. Daniels had a tailor shop. This later was taken over by Elmer Leggett who was a watch tinkerer. He was assisted by his daughter and son-in-law Don Schroyer as Elmer used to have business elsewhere which included a bout with Al K. Hall which he always lost and took some time to recover.

Next came the home and office of Dr. Sprinkle who was the mainstay of the medical staff of the town along with Dr. Black who came later. Dr. Sprinkle along with his family Mrs. Sprinkle and children Pearl, Ronald and Fanny moved to Missouri for his health.

Then Dr. Van Pelt moved in to Dr. Sprinkle's practice about the time the "Spanish Flu" epidemic struck our little community, taking many lives, leaving an aftermath of weaknesses which could be the contributing factor of a Poliomyelitis epedemic which also raised havoc with many of our younger citizens, which today we have the means to combat this crippling scourge. Thank God and Dr. Salk.

We also had another physician, a Dr. Wolcott whose office was in the saloon most of the time. At times he was busy sewing up split heads and sundry injuries incurred by fights and mayhem when the roustabouts hit the town, especially on Saturday nights. The good doctor lived alone directly across from the Sprinkle home; he also had a running feud with Al K. Hall and finally lost the fight.

The next building was Andy Thompson's livery which furnished all the transportation for the salesmen and people who had business out of Bradner. He hadmany horses and buggies to let and did a thriving business, until the auto put him out of the running.

The next place was part of the establishment of Hotel Bradner; in fact the livery and horse barn cared for the horses while their owners had food and lodging in the Bradner Hotel presided over by Mrs. Ida O'Bryan where many of the school personnel stayed. She was assisted by her son Steve who was a cripple; many towns people ate at her table of the tasty food she prepared.

Turning south was the harness shop of a Mr. Shirk; next a dwelling which housed the shoe repair shop of David Entsminger (King David and Queen Lucy). The next business was the 5 and 10 shop of John and Libby Denny who served the community knick knacks and what have you in toys, penny candy--a real item those days.

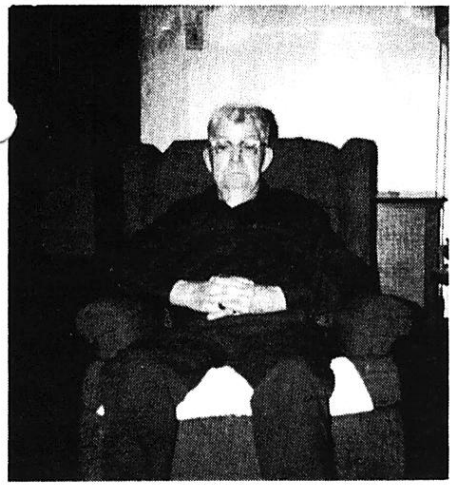
South of there was the blacksmith shop run by Geo. Robinson. Overhead was the buggy shop of John Hutchinson.

Now that we have made the trip of 70 years ago, there may be a few discrepancies, but in general we have touched on many items that will bring back memories of those who still recollect the past.

An entire book could be written on the business endeavors and individuals that were active in those days. Now at the age of 76 years, I can recall people and happenings of at least 70 years. Of course many of these dear folk have passed to their reward, and as my sainted father once said on a trip to the cemetery, as he looked over the area," Most of my friends lie here, sleeping. I too shall be here." That February 5th, 1955, we laid him to rest, and Mother seven years later.

Most of my growing life was spent in Bradner, having seen the tragedies, such as the Nitroglycerine factories blowing up, the flu epidemic, the Hurly Burly of the oil field, the people and situations changing with time. Of course, the auto changed the country by shrinking miles, altering businesses. With these changes came a different mode of life and living, but the memories of these pioneers and their forebears make a rich background of history for those that were, those that are, and those to come.

Hubert Kortier



Sterling Zimmerman (1884)

Anna Bryan (1881)

Those Dear Hearts And Gentle People

Frances Eckert Reese (1886)
"Our Oldest Living Alumna"
Taken in 1947

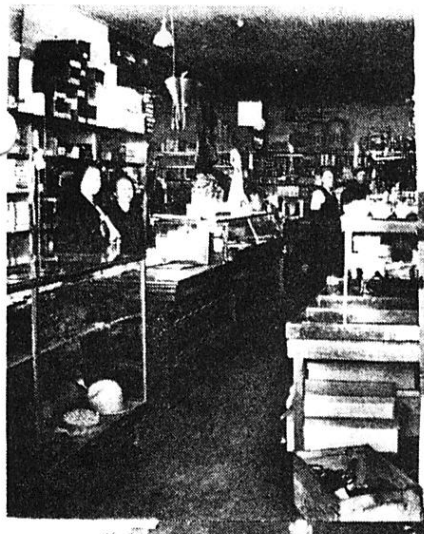
Mae Smith (1881)

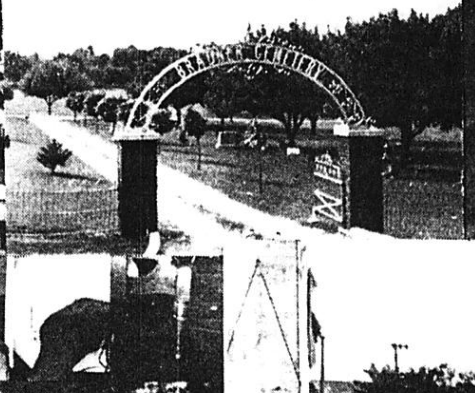
Edna Peterson (1879)

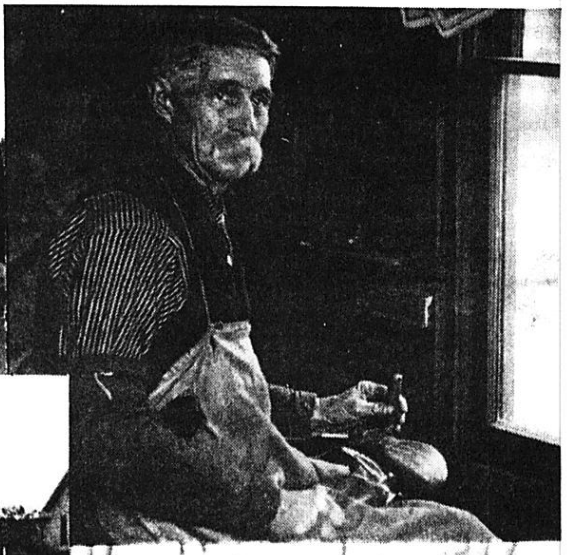
Dora L. Keller (1888)

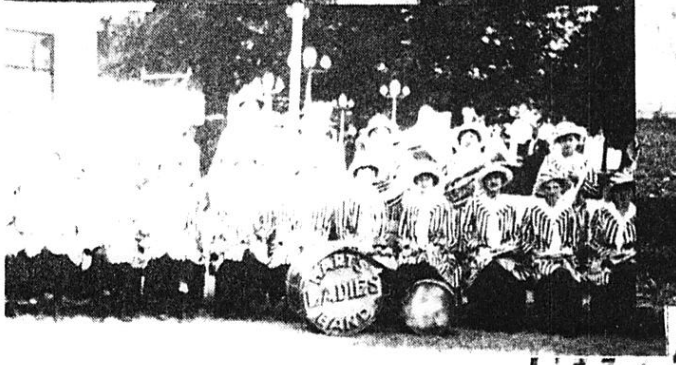
In Memory Of

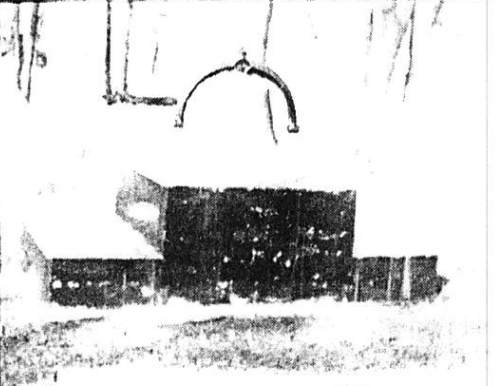
Herbert Adams
E.R. "Fred" Adkins
Ethan Allen
Emma (Smithson) Andres
Alvin V. Beatty
Dr. & Mrs. E. R. (Beryl Burriss) Beatty
F. Eugene Beatty
Russell "Bus" Berridge
Clem J. Blackman
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. (Alta Chamblin) Blackman
Mr. & Mrs. Fred (Mae Bower) Blessing
Edna Pearl Bowers
Mr. & Mrs. Louis E. (Hazel Kille) Bowers
Clarence "Baker" Brown
Wm. L. "Billy" Bryan
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. E. (Minnie Boor) Clark
Burnell D. Cribbs
Edwin "Dukie" Duquette
Mr. & Mrs. Martin (Margaret Zimmerman) Eckert
Durwood Carter Entsminger
Harry Entsminger
James Lee Entsminger
Mr. & Mrs. Mannie (Lillian Shedenhelm) Entsminger
Benjamin H. Errett
Mr. & Mrs. Grant (Myrtle Gains) Fairbank
Robert Fairbanks
Mr. & Mrs. E.A. (Bessie Blacklock) Force
Jesse L. French
Wm. S. French
Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Mabel Morgan) Garey
George Graber
Leontine (Morrison) Hall
Nettie Rose "Posey" (Morrison) Harpel
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd C. (Nevada Sommers) Hathaway
Mr. & Mrs. O.J. "Barney" Hathaway
Claude M. Hiser
Mrs. Helen (Ostrander) Hiser
Durwood "Pete" Holcombe
E. Paul Huffman
Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. (Hattie Fairbanks) James
Emit C. Jennings
Margaret Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Guy H. (Elsie Claar) Keller
Ray Wilson Keller
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. (Ella Klingman) Kortier
Louis J. Knepper
Wm. Arthur "Billy" Lee
Kenneth "Ick" Long
Mr. & Mrs. William B. (Ella Eckert) McCormick
Harry A. Molter
Mr. & Mrs. Myrel (Lucy Lindemeyer) Molter
Raymond E. Molter
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford (Nettie McCreary) Morrison
Mildred (Rosendale) Morrison
Montie Charles Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Owen (Artella Wells) Rentz
Ronald Rieff
Mr. & Mrs. George F. (Selma Johnson) Ryder
Mr. & Mrs. Hayes (Edna Stahl) Schell
Mr. & Mrs. Jay B. (Gertie Blackman) Schell
Mr. & Mrs. John (Rozetta) Seiple
Mr. & Mrs. Ulysses Elsworth
(Harriet Louise Gahn) Shedenhelm
Norman Shue
Floyd L. Smith
James Brandon Smith
Plin Smith
Wm. F. Smith
George Spengler
Michael Stahl
Harry W. "Bus" Stiger
Ned Stiger
Keith LeRoy Swartz
Omer Francis Swartz
Willis Swin
Mr. & Mrs. Bert (Catherine Brandon) Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Richard (Garnet Eckert) Teeple
Susie B. (Sams) Ullam
Delbert Warden
Lurlene (Beatty) Weaver
James C. Youngs
Emma (Ritter) Zimmerman

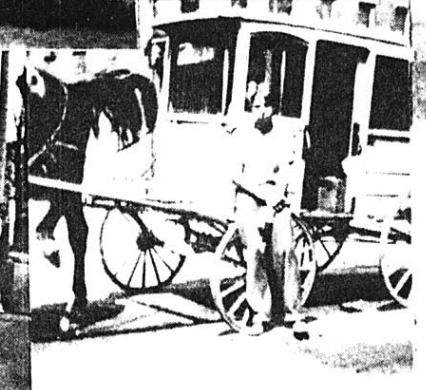


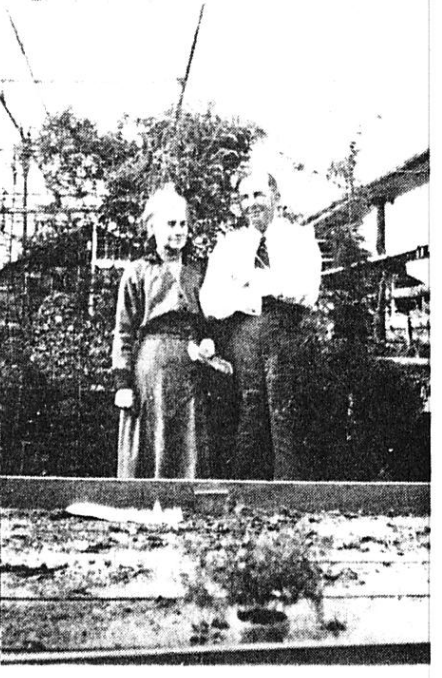

BRADLEY CEMETERY











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Debra Tahy
Tom Tahy
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Sterling E. Zimmerman
Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow W. (Dorothy Traxler) Zinser

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Amost Motor Sales, Bradner
Bank Nite Club, Bradner
Barndt Funeral Home, Bradner-Wayne
Bentley Furniture, Wayne
Bradner Industries, Div. of American Heating & Ventilating, Bradner
Bradner Lumber Co., Bradner
Bradner Pro Hardware, Bradner
Bragg Insurance Agency, Bradner
Bud's Cardinal Food Store, Bradner
Chilcote's, Wayne
The Commercial Bank & Savings Co., Fostoria
Country Club Roller Rink, Bradner
Dean Bros. Block & Tile, Bradner
Dorothy's Beauty Cottage, Bradner
Duane's Barber Shop
Dunn's Lanes, Fostoria
Edison Discount Drug Store, Fostoria
Eleanor's Beauty Shop, Bradner
Richard L. Fairbanks Electrical Service, Bradner
The Fruth Hardware, Fostoria
Gillig Electric Co., Fostoria
Hoodlebrink's Market, Wayne
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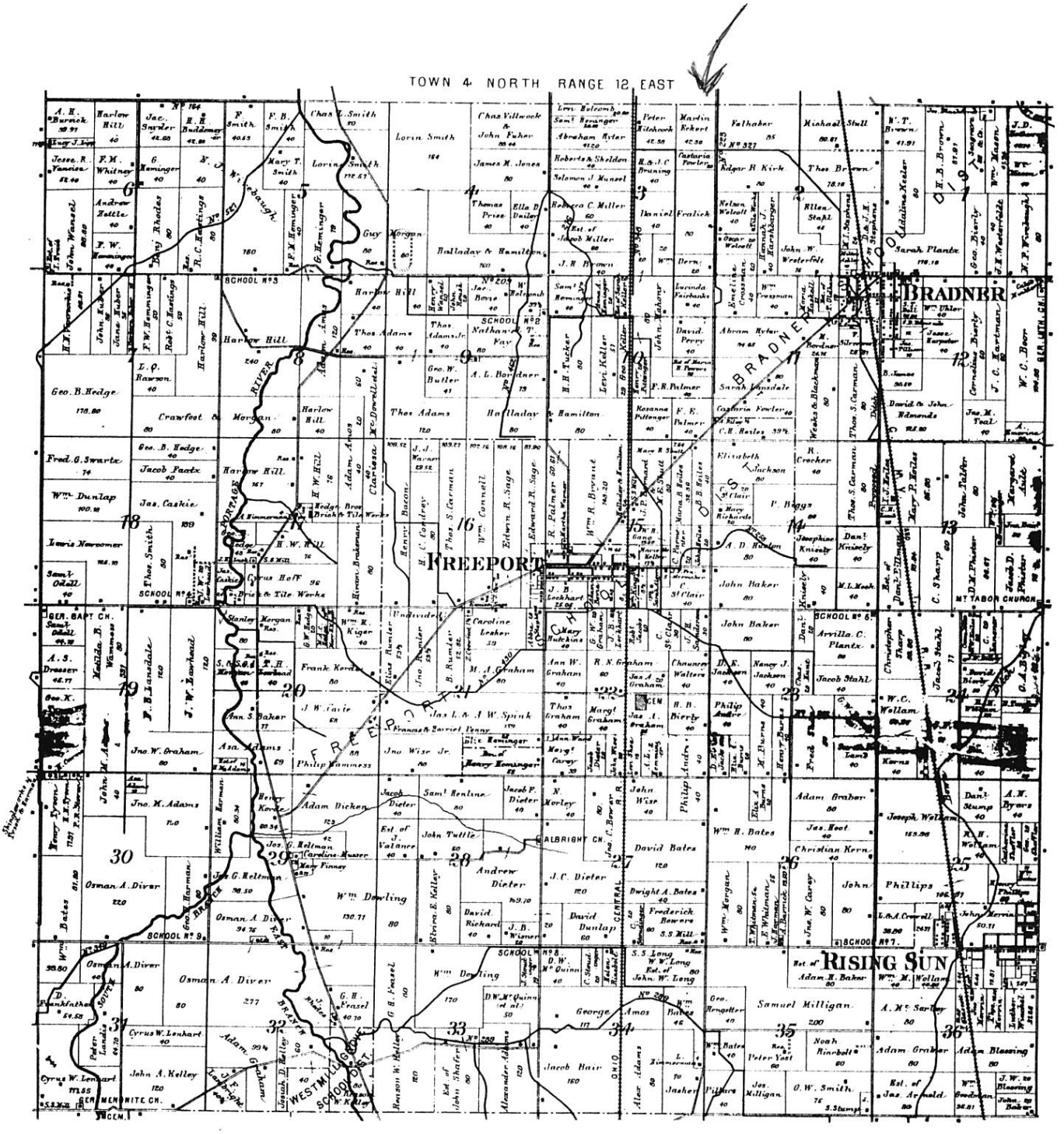
Jeannette's, Fostoria
Jean's Beauty Shop, Bradner
Keller Signs, Bradner
S.S. Kresge Co., Fostoria
Loyal Order of Moose No.1567, Fostoria
Nat Transportation, Inc., Bradner
The New Era, Fostoria
Northwest Ohio Bank of Wood County, Cygnet-Bowling Green-Perrysburg-Wayne
Ohio Savings & Loan Association, Fostoria
Dale Rose Realty, Wayne
Stahl Oil Company, Wayne
Beryl W. Stewart, Wayne
Stumps Hardware, Bradner
Byron Wilson & Associates Insurance, Bradner
Wollam-Hiser Real Estate, Fostoria

1886

MONTGOMERY

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

TOWN 4 NORTH RANGE 12 EAST


BRADNER
FREEPORT
RISING SUN
SCHOOL No 3
SCHOOL No 5
SCHOOL No 6
SCHOOL No 7
SCHOOL No 8
SCHOOL No 9
GER. BAPT. CH.
ALBRIGHT CH.
M. TABOR CHURCH
GER. MENNONITE CH.
CEM.
WESTMILLGROVE SCHOOL DIST.
BRADNER & FREEPORT TURNPIKE
FREEPORT & PORTAGE
CENTRAL
OHIO
SOUTH
RIVER
CREEK
Harlow Hill
Crawfoot
Halladay & Hamilton
Osman A. Diver
Andrew Dieter
Samuel Milligan
Adam Graber
Phillips
Christian Kern
Wm. Dowling
Jacob Hair
John A. Kelley
Cyrus W. Lenhart
Geo. B. Hedge
Thos. Adams
Jno. W. Graham
Jno. M. Adams
Wm. Dunlap
Fred. G. Swartz
Jacob Paetz
Jas. Caskie
Louis Newcomer
Thos. Smith
Cyrus Hoff
Brick & Tile Works
Jno. Wise Jr.
Philip Hammess
Frank Kerbs
Adam Dicken
Jacob Dieter
Jno. C. Bower
Jno. Wise
Philip Andre
Wm. H. Bates
David Bates
Frederick Bowers
Jno. W. Carey
Adam Graber
Jas. Hoot
Joseph Wellam
Dan'l Stump
A. W. Byers
Jno. Herrin
Jno. Phillips
L. & A. Cornell
Est. of Adam H. Baker
Wm. M. Wellam
A. M. Sarber
Adam Graber
Adam Blessing
Noah Rinkbolt
Peter Yost
O. W. Smith
Est. of Jas. Arnold
Jas. Milligan
Jacob Hair
Alex. Adams
Jasher Pillars
Wm. Goodman
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Arvilla C. Plantz
Jacob Stahl
W. C. Wellam
Kerns
Chauncey Walters
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P. Biggs
A. D. Rankin
Josephine Knisely
Dan'l Knisely
M. L. Mack
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C. Sharp
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Jacob D. Phister
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Jno. W. Carey
Jno. Phillips
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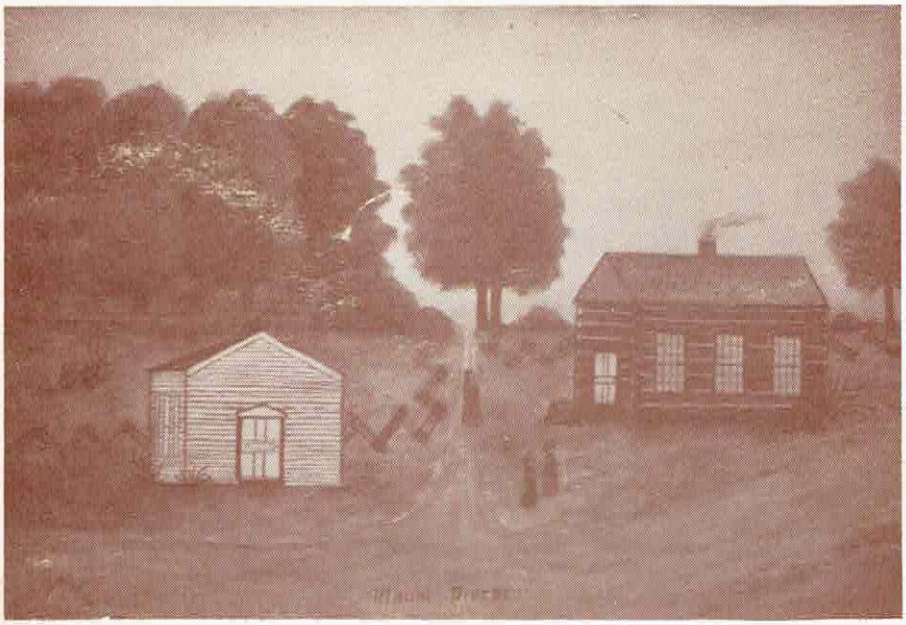
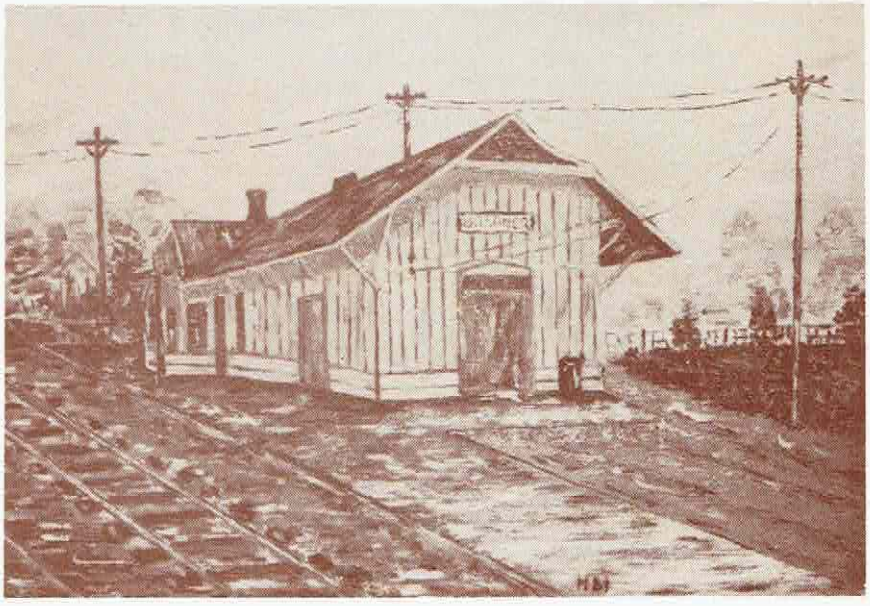
Jno. Tuttle



Picture painted before 1900 by Anna Kirk, depicting Mount Prospect School (left) and Methodist Protestant Church.



A drawing by Harland Morrison of Hocking Valley Railroad Depot. Built in 1876.